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CHRONOLOGICAL REGISTER

OF

BOSCAWEN, N. H.

IN THE COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, AND STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE,

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN TO 1820.

IN THREE PARTS:

Descriptive, Historical & Miscellaneous.

COMPILED BY AN ORDER OF THE TOWN, PASSED MARCH, 1819

BY EBENEZER PRICE, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE SECOND CHURCH IN SAID TOWN

"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."—*David.*

"Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations, and thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in."—*Isaiah.*

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY JACOB B. MOORE.

1823.

1827777

DEDICATION.

This compilation, the result of much labor, has been carefully made, and is now presented to the inhabitants of the town of Boscawen and to their posterity, for a perpetual memorial, of the very interesting events of antiquity, wrested from oblivion,—

By their sincere friend, and
very humble servant,
EBENEZER PRICE.

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NOTE.—The town of Boscawen, at their annual meeting, March, 1821, voted acceptance of the following Register, in manuscript; appointed a committee of five, including the selectmen, to make an equitable compensation to the compiler, and to dispose of the manuscript as should best meet the intention of the town: accordingly, this committee awarded the writer $50, and proposed the printing of the manuscript by subscription.

FIRST PART.

Description of the Town of Boscawen.

Boscawen is an inland town in the State of New-Hampshire, and county of Merrimack, pleasantly situated upon the westerly side of Merrimack river, between Concord and Salisbury; and its extent of territory, by grant, is seven miles square. It is bounded eastwardly by Merrimack river; northwardly on Salisbury line; westwardly on the line of Warner, and southwardly upon Hopkinton and Concord: its southeast corner monument is near the southwardly margin of Contoocook river, at its conjunction with the Merrimack, within a few yards of the isle on which Mrs. Duston, of ancient fame, performed the unparalleled deed of taking the lives of her savage captors, and making her escape from captivity, more particularly to be noticed in another place.

The well known Indian name *Contoocook*, was given by the proprietors to their location, and was retained until the town was incorporated.

The soil of this town is very various, from the most fertile down to that which is low and poor; and yet there is but little land in its whole extent which may be deemed waste land, or which may not be advantageously improved. Compared with most of the adjacent towns, it is not

hilly, but the face of the town, when viewed from its highest parts, appears uncommonly level.—There are but few spots where stones greatly abound, and no inconvenience is experienced from morasses or stagnant waters.

The territory may be divided into three general divisions, viz : *interval*, *pine-plain*, and *high-land*, requiring a different cultivation.

The *interval* upon the Merrimack, nearly the whole length of the town, is, in many places, widely extended, originally covered with a heavy growth of elm, butternut, maple and bass-wood. When cultivated, it proved very productive, and, even at this period, bountifully rewards the labour of the husbandman.

Bordering on the interval westwardly are large *plains;* natural growth, hard and white pine trees ; soil thinner, but suited to the ordinary production of rich harvests of grain, when properly cultivated.

The *high land*, which comprises about five sevenths of the whole town, lies in large swells far extending in a direction from north to south; natural growth, white oak and other hard wood; the soil deep and very productive, affording many excellent farms most delightfully situated, and accommodated generally with a suitable proportion of pasturing, mowing and orcharding, with a constant supply of water. The convenience of water is aided by *drain-wells*, which are in very common use ; opened upon a side hill, and the water taken from the bottom, in pipes, for the accommodation of houses and barns ; and found to be a very great saving in respect of labor, manure, and in the health and growth of cattle.

This town is remarkably well watered. Merrimack river laves the whole easterly border. On the west, Black-water river, parallel with the Merrimack, five miles distant, runs through the whole extent of the town from north to south, and empties itself into the Contoocook. This river is not large, but is very important, both in respect of its fertile fields of champaigne, and the numerous water-privileges it affords.

Pond brook, or as generally called, Beaver-dam brook, accommodates several mills, and from its meadows are annually cut more than 100 tons of hay; runs between and parallel with Merrimack and Blackwater, from Salisbury, till it unites with Contoocook, in the north-east corner of Hopkinton. This stream is considered as nearly equally dividing the town east and west.

Mill brook, emptying into Merrimack, and *Schoodic*, running southwardly from Long Pond, and uniting with Warner river, are streams furnishing mill-seats. Beside the before-named, there are many other streams of lesser note, gliding through most of our valleys, yielding their benefits to almost every farm; and some of them improved for water machinery.

There are two ponds of note: *Great Pond* lies near the centre of the town, and is about one mile long, and the same in breadth; and *Long Pond*, situated in the west part of the town, is about two miles long, and 1-2 a mile wide: both abound with common freshwater fish, and each furnishes a mill-seat at its outlet. There are in this town seventeen saw-mills; five corn-mills, three of which have two runs of stones, and all furnished with bolts; four fulling-mills; five

carding machines; two mills for grinding tanner's bark; one trip-hammer; one mill for turning cart-wheel hubs and felloes, and one for grinding lead for potter's ware.

The principal bridges are, two across Merrimack river, uniting Boscawen with Canterbury, built by incorporated companies. Chandler's bridge, so called, over Contoocook river; 7 across Black-water river; 1 over Stirrup-iron brook, and 1 over the gulf, on the fourth New-Hampshire turnpike, built at the expense of 1000 dollars, by Lt. Stephen Gerrish, in 1815; but just before its completion, the contractor, after a short sickness, died, and his death deprived this town of one of its most ingenious, enterprising and valuable citizens.

As shewing this town to be well watered, it is estimated by judicious men, that the length of plank-bridges annually maintained within its limits is more than two miles, including their abutments.

There are six public roads through this town from Concord and Hopkinton to the town of Salisbury; viz: *King-street* and *Fish-street* in continuation; *High-street*, on the 4th New-Hampshire turnpike; *Water-street; Battle-street*, lately opened; *Pleasant-street*, continued on West-highway, and *West Newbury-street*. And crossing all the before-named streets, at right angles, except Battle-street, from Fish-street to Warner line, is *Long-street*.

The *Province-road*, laid out by the authority of Gov. John Wentworth, in a direction from Portsmouth to No. 4, or Charlestown, and opened in 1770, is not now improved except for a short distance.

These public streets, at a very great expense, are made easy for carriages of every description.

The inhabitants of this town have been highly distinguished in point of health. From its first settlement, there have been no extensively mortal contagions or epidemics. It is thought by men of observation, that the pure air and uniform temperature, arising from the numerous streams of wholesome water, and peculiar direction of the swells of high land, parallel with the streams, have contributed to the enjoyment of this invaluable blessing.

There are two villages to be noted. The principal of which is situated in the eastwardly section of the town, made up of about thirty dwelling-houses, through which the 4th New-Hampshire turnpike passes, affording a spacious street, nearly two miles in length, very straight and level. In passing through this village, the observant traveller is attracted and delighted by the fertile intervals, and the serpentine course of the Merrimack in full view. Near the centre of this village, on the river, are a commodious landing place and lumber yard ; and movements are in train for extending the boating navigation of Merrimack river, as far as this place, if not further up the river.

There is also a village now forming on a pleasant eminence in the westwardly part of the town, near the meeting house, promising at no very distant period a centre for business and extensive population.

The number of elegant and richly furnished dwelling houses is as yet small, for it may be observed that we are an agricultural people, and therefore more attention is paid to the conveni-

ence of the farmer than to well finished and furnished houses.

There are in town two houses for public religious worship, six miles distant, commodious and decently well finished; one of which is furnished with a good bell. There are fourteen school-wards, and thirteen school-houses, most of which have been lately built, and are commodious. The average number of children to each house, both summer and winter, is about thirty-five. Nine public inns; six retailing stores, and one town-*pound* built of stone.

Education is very evidently progressing, and many of our youth are good proficients. To this the early aid and unwearied labour of the Rev. SAMUEL WOOD, D. D. have greatly contributed. In the course of his residence in town, he has uniformly had more or less young men under his tuition, either to advance a common, or to prepare them for a public education. He has entered at the different colleges between eighty and ninety young gentlemen, of whom thirty-one have engaged in the work of the gospel ministry. And more recently education has been greatly promoted by the town inhabitants in their strict observance of the state law of 1808, requiring the annual appointment of a visiting committee; also, by supporting *select schools*, under the tuition of learned and pious young men, and likewise by favoring *sabbath schools*, which have become general, and highly promotive of education, as well as good morals.

The *Boscawen Social Library Society* was founded 1792, and incorporated 1797; it contains about 220 volumes.

There are two religious Societies of the *congregational* order; the first formed in 1802, in connection with the first church, and incorporated 1807; the second formed 1804, and incorporated 1810.

One musical, one moral, and one agricultural society, beside the following charitable societies; *one* for educating heathen youth; *one* auxiliary to the American Education Society, and supports one beneficiary; *two* Female Cent Societies; *two* Female Gleaning Societies, to aid poor, pious young men in acquiring an education; and several Reading Societies among our female youth, who pay an annual tax, in aid of missions.*

Of professional characters, there are in town two Congregational Ministers of the Gospel; one Counsellor at Law, and two Physicians.

A Post-Office was established Jan. 13, 1806, and the present Deputy Post-Master, is Benjamin H. Oak, Esq.

There are five Justices of the Peace and one Coroner.

The present population of the town, 270 families; 313 rateable polls; 394 legal voters, and 2113 souls, of whom 1014 are males, and 1099 females.

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* Mothers and their daughters have united their charities in aid of Domestic Missions, and the success of their efforts has been manifested in a collection of a very valuable box of *clothing*, recently transmitted to the Elliot station in the Choctaw nation of Indians. Also the Pastor of the 1st church has received $40, constituting him a life-member of the American Education Society, and $20 to constitute him a life-member of the New-England Tract Society. And the Pastor of the 2d Church has received $20 to make him a life-member of the last named society—mostly from female beneficence in their respective congregations.

This town does not abound with mineral substances. That which has excited the most attention is the lead. It seems to be the general impression that there are very extensive mines of lead, but notwithstanding the strong solicitude and laborious research of numbers, as yet they have not been found.

The soil is favorable to the growth of Indian corn, rye, wheat, oats, peas, beans and potatoes; the latter are raised in great abundance, and much used in fattening cattle and swine.

Much pains has been taken by the inhabitants of this town in cultivating fruit-trees; but within a few years, orcharding has greatly decayed, and the seasons have been very unfavorable to almost all kinds of stone fruit. At present, apples, pears and cherries are the principal fruit. There has been, however, a great improvement made upon our orchards by grafting, which afford a great variety of fruit most delicious: among which are the Pearmain, Green Russet, Woburn and Baldwin apples, English, Brown, Pumpkin, Sweetings and Gillflowers. Attention has been paid of late to the cultivation of currants, and some have begun to derive from them an excellent beverage, which in flavour will equal the richest wine.

The breed of cattle has been much improved within a few years; while that of horses seems to have claimed but little or no attention.*

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*In reverting to the *diseases* among cattle, beside those which are common, may be noted,

The *Black-leg*, which particularly prevailed in 1814, among young cattle and sheep, and proved mortal in a short time.

The *Hoof-ail*, a distemper in the feet of *neat cattle*, of which they rarely died; but in many cases the hoof was entirely re-

The wool of our sheep has been greatly improved in quality, by mixing our native with the merino breed. The first merino sheep were brought into town by Deac. Enoch Little, in 1812. The largest number of sheep ever owned in town was in 1816 ; the largest flocks from 50 to 150 : and the quantity of wool carded, and mostly manufactured in town the same year, was about 17,500 lbs. ; or eight tons and three quarters.

The Rev. Doctor Wood has, for the fifteen years past, cultivated the *silk-worm ;* and furnished his own, and some other families, with sewing-silk of a very excellent quality.

Staple Commodities.—Boards, white oak plank, pine and oak timber, white oak staves and heading (wrought and unwrought), beef, pork, mutton, poultry, butter and cheese—of which, the greatest quantity is pork and cheese, and of the first quality to be found in any market.

The principal market towns resorted to by the inhabitants, are Newburyport, Salem, Boston and Portsmouth.

There are two congregational churches in town, calvinistic in sentiment. The *first* embodied in 1740. The present pastor, Rev. Samuel Wood, D. D., was ordained Oct. 17, 1781, and the church

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moved, and in some cases the usefulness of oxen was destroyed, in 1816.

The *Black-tongue*, an inflammatory putrid disorder of the throat and tongue of most neat cattle, and frequently of horses, prevailed very extensively in 1819. The same disease would sometimes seize and spend its force upon the hoofs of horses. extremely painful, and often injure or entirely remove the hoof. For this complaint when in the mouth various applications, guarding against putridity, were used ; but when in the hoof, immediate bleeding in the part was found to be a great relief, if not an effectual remedy.

now consists of about 350 members. The 2d church was embodied in 1804. Rev. Ebenezer Price installed pastor Sept. 26, 1804, and consists of 120 communicants. Between these churches and the societies with which they are connected, there exists very great harmony of feeling and sentiment.

We have no account of any general outpouring of the spirit of God, for the revival of religion in town, till after the settlement of Rev. Mr. Wood; but since that time revivals have been numerous: the most powerful and extensive of which were experienced in the years 1815 and 1819. These were general through the two societies, particularly the last, whose origin, progress, character, the extent and fruit of the work, evidently showed itself to be the peculiar work of God; and such as has been rarely, if ever, experienced in any place of the same population. There were admitted into the first church at one time 76; at another 54; and into the second church, 30, besides smaller additions.

It should be observed that there is a large proportion of the inhabitants of this town, who do not attach themselves to the existing congregational societies, but are professedly of other denominations, viz. Calvinistic Baptists, Freewill Baptists, Methodists, &c. Though as yet no church has been embodied, or society organized, or stated religious teacher settled among them.

In placing before you and your posterity the foregoing description of the town of Boscawen, it is not merely to gratify your feelings by a comprehensive view of the present advanced state of society, but to induce the inquiry, by what routine

of events—in the employment of what means and instruments, hath the all-wise God produced such a state of things in the course of 80 or 90 years? This laudable inquiry we hope to answer in the *second part*, by presenting a history of events and facts founded on the records of the proprietors and town, as well as on undoubted verbal testimony.

SECOND PART.

The Chronological Register; exhibiting the Proceedings of the Proprietors and Town of Boscawen, from its first settlement to 1820—*a period of* 88 *years; interspersed with those events and facts interesting to inquirers, and divided into sections.*

Section 1.

In 1732, the memorable year which gave birth to George Washington, a number of enterprizing men, mostly natives of Newbury, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, New-England, associated together with a view to settle some part of the extensive wilderness, should they meet with proper encouragement. Accordingly, they peti-

tioned the General Court of Massachusetts Bay for a township situated upon the westerly side of Merrimack river, in New-Hampshire, then under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts; and were successful. A grant of seven miles square was made out in due form, Dec. 8, 1732, in the words following, viz.

"*Province of Massachusetts-Bay.*

A petition of John Coffin, of Newbury, and eighty others, praying the *grant* of a tract of land seven miles square lying on the west side of Merrimack river, adjoining to Penacook, to settle themselves or their children upon, on such conditions as this Court shall judge fit.

In the House of Representatives *read*, and in answer to this petition,

Ordered, that there be, and hereby is granted to the petitioners a tract of land, seven miles square, at the place petitioned for, on the west side of Merrimack river, to be laid out by a surveyor, and chain-men on oath, a plan thereof to be presented to this Court, at their next May session, for confirmation. The lands to be by them settled on the conditions following, viz.—That within the space of four years from the confirmation of the *plan*, they settle, and have on the spot eighty-one families; each settler to build a good convenient dwelling-house, one story high, eighteen feet square at least, and fence, clear and bring to, four acres fit for improvement, and three acres more well stocked with English grass; and also lay out three shares throughout the town, each share to be one eighty-fourth part of the said tract of land, one of said shares to be for the first settled minis-

ter. one for the ministry, and one for the school ; and also to build a convenient meeting-house, and settle a learned orthodox minister within the term aforesaid.

In Council, read and concurred."

A true copy of record, as among the proceedings of the General Court, on the 8th Decr. 1732, p. 356.

Attest, ALDEN BRADFORD, *Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

"*Province of Massachusetts Bay.*

A plat of a township of land granted at the Court to John Coffin and others, lying on Merrimack river, above Penacook, surveyed by Richard Hazzen and two chainmen on oath, being bounded as follows, viz. ; beginning at the middle of Contoocook river, where it empties into Merrimack, where it joins on Penacook Plantation ; thence running west 15° south adjoining Pennicook line, four miles, to a white-pine tree, marked for Penacook corner bounds ; thence further on the same line three miles and eight poles, to a Norway-pine, marked for the corner bounds ; thence turned at right angles, and running north 15 deg. west, seven miles and eight poles, to a crotched white-birch, lettered, standing on the south-east side of a hill, which is the north-west corner ; thence turned at right-angles and run east, 15 deg. north, near seven miles and an half, to a white-oak and two white-pines, marked by Merrimack river, and by said river as it runs to Contoocook river to the place where it first began. In the House of Representatives read, and voted that this plat be accepted ; and that the lands within delineated and described, be

and hereby are confirmed to the within-named John Coffin, Joseph Dole, and other petitioners, their heirs and assigns forever, they complying with the orders and conditions in the grant, on their petition in December last; provided the plat does not contain more than the contents of seven miles square, nor interfere with any other, or former grant.

Consented to, J. BELCHER."

A true copy of record, as among the proceedings of the General Court, on 6th June, 1733. Page 394.

Attest, ALDEN BRADFORD, *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

This grant, thus confirmed, was made to eighty-one proprietors, to whom were added ten more, making ninety-one, whose names, for the satisfaction of their posterity and successors are to be found in a list in the miscellany.

The characters of the gentlemen composing the proprietary of Contoocook very widely differed from modern speculators in wild lands. It was not a mere regard to private emolument which prompted them to engage in such an enterprize; but they evidenced in all their procedures "in turning the wilderness into a fruitful field," a patriotic spirit, and a readiness to lend their influence for the benefit of others. It is but a just tribute to the memory of this body of men, to say, they were from habit and principle *moral*, the friends of civil order, and the firm supporters of the institutions of the gospel. Some of them were distinguished, by their influence in the most important concerns of the State, and many of

their names are registered among the friends of the Redeemer.

Section. 2.

May 2, 1733. By order of the General Court of Massachusetts, to John Coffin, the proprietors held their first meeting in Newbury at the house of Archelaus Adams.

Lt. George Little was chosen moderator, and Joseph Coffin, Proprietors' clerk—who was duly sworn by Richard Kent, Esq. justice of the peace. The clerk thus elected, afterwards Col. Joseph Coffin, was a gentleman of good natural abilities,—a handsome common education, and a very ready scribe. Though living in Newbury, he was uniformly chosen clerk, as uniformly attended the proprietors' meetings for the term of twenty-eight years, until the town was incorporated. The proprietors being in a capacity to act, the immediate object of their attention was to prepare their plantation for settlement. At their first meeting, therefore, they appointed a committee of five—Joseph Gerrish, Esq. William Ilsley, John Coffin, Joseph Noyes and Tristram Little, to locate their grant, fix its boundaries, take a plan of the same and make a return of their doings to the General Court ;—assessed five pounds on each proprietor to defray this expence, and chose Daniel Hale, Treasurer, and John Weed, Collector. The committee performed this service in the following month of June ; called a meeting of the proprietors, and presented them with a plan of the township as taken by Richard Hazzen, surveyor. July 4. The compensation

made to the surveyor 10£ ; to each of the three chainmen 36*s.* ; and 10*s.* per day to each of the committee for their attendance.

The proprietors agreed that the township should be laid out into *one hundred and four shares or rights.* One right to each of the ninety-one proprietors ;—four rights for public uses, viz. for the first minister—support of the ministry—schools and mills ;—and nine rights to be conferred, *one* on each of the following gentlemen ;—Ebenezer Burrill, Esq., John Wainwright, Esq., Richard Kent, Esq., Mr. Samuel Bradford, John Choate, Esq., Mr. Edward Shove, Mr. Benjamin Bird, Mr. Jeremiah Getchell, and Mr. Richard Hubbard, who had assisted the proprietors by their advice and influence.

In prosecution of the plan, a new committee of five—Col. Joseph Gerrish, Lt. William Ilsley, Benjamin Pettingell, Daniel Peirce and John Weed, jun. were appointed to lay out the first division, which should consist of an interval lot of five acres, and a house-lot (called home-lots) to each proprietor ;—six other gentlemen were added to this committee Oct. 9, to attend and advise in respect of the business, the whole to be compensated by the proprietors.

The season was somewhat advanced, the committee therefore, with their attendants, immediately set about, and accomplished the business of their appointment, so that on the 9th of November they were able to report to the proprietors. The 1st division, or home lot, so called, laid out by Mr. John Brown, surveyor ; also, three streets in the first division—King-street, Queen-street, and Newbury-street ; likewise the *Gentlemen's*

Farms, so called—five on the north side and four on the south side of the plantation; each farm containing 300 acres, but laid out in lots of 150 acres, two lots to each farm, including sufficiency of land for all necessary roads.

On accepting the report of their committee, the proprietors appointed Henry Rolfe, Esq. to draw the *home-lots*, and also the Gentlemen's Farms; assessed 4*s*. on each right to meet the expense of their doings, and the present meeting. And moreover appointed a committee to fence the interval on the plantation early the ensuing spring at the expense of the proprietors.

Thus in the short term of about *seven months*, the proprietors of Contoocook, in exercising the enterprising spirit they possessed, completely prepared their plantation for the reception of its first settlers.

Section 3.

It was early in the season of 1734, when the first settlers, mostly natives of Newbury, moved to Contoocook with their families, there to fix their own future residence and provide an inheritance for their posterity. And this was an undertaking of no common magnitude in that age. To us it may seem but a light thing to leave the place of our nativity and to migrate 60 or 100 miles into the interior, to bring land from a state of nature into a well cultivated farm. But in turning back 80 or 90 years, we find the circumstances of men greatly differing from ours. Their views of the country were more limited; their

fears more numerous, and their enterprize less. For them, therefore, to leave the fields cultivated by their progenitors for several generations, to establish a residence but a few miles in the woods, demanded a greater effort than would be needed by the most of this age to plant themselves upon the far distant Missouri. But these adventurers had to encounter serious obstacles. To secure the means of life by cutting down the trees of the forest was business entirely new; the place of their destination was 60 miles distant—a distance which but few had ever travelled; should they arrive in safety to their contemplated residence, their domestic accommodations must, at best, be poor; and there too they must feel themselves to be the farthest removed from society, as but few or no permanent settlements were as yet made between them and Canada. The idea of the wild beasts of the wilderness was appalling; but the most distressing thought was that of meeting merciless Indians, without the means of defending their property, families or lives. So that whatever confidence they placed in the encouragement, protection, and aid proffered by the proprietors, it was like a self-banishment from society, friends and privileges—like giving up all, except their reliance upon a merciful Providence to preserve them from evil, and prosper them in their undertaking.

There is no record to be found, shewing the exact order, or time, in which the first settlers moved into the plantation; their names, therefore, will be found inserted in the miscellany as near their true order as verbal information will allow.

The most of the first season was occupied by the settlers in preparing for and erecting their habitations; cultivating some patches of interval, and making clearings for future crops. Being destitute of saw-mills, their houses were built in the ordinary style of new countries; the walls of round logs, and roofs covered with large slabs of spruce bark, except a small aperture for the escape of the smoke of their fires, instead of the more expensive apparatus of a chimney.

The first plough was introduced into the settlement, and used by Mr. Stephen Gerrish, upon the interval.

Dec. 18, 1734. The proprietors met at Newbury and passed several acts for the accommodation of their settlers. Mr. Joseph Toppan was directed to provide a good grind-stone for the use of the plantation; raised £100 Massachusetts currency, for building a saw-mill, though at a subsequent meeting the measure was objected to and varied; chose Benjamin Lunt, John Moody, jun. and Edward Emery, assessors, and John Coffin, Collector.

Jan. 7, 1735. The first child was born on the plantation, viz. *Abigail*, daughter of Nathaniel Danforth, who was married to Thomas Foss, and lived to an advanced age. *Sarah*, daughter of Andrew Bohonnon, the second child, born Jan. 22, 1736.

March 10. After several attempts for the erection of mills, the proprietors accepted a proposal of Joseph Gerrish, Esq. and fourteen associates, to build a saw-mill at the upper end of King-street, on the small stream called Mill-brook, by the following September; and also to

build a good corn-mill, when there should be in the plantation twenty settlers, for the consideration of a 50 acre lot adjoining the mills, and a full right of land through the town. A bond was taken of these 15 gentlemen for the faithful performance of this service, by Robert Adams, Joseph Morse, 3d, and Richard Hale, for the proprietors.

Section 4.

May 19, 1736. The first meeting of the proprietors held at Contoocook. After choosing a Clerk and other officers, in compliance with one of the conditions of the grant, the proprietors appointed Lt. Benjamin Lunt, Joseph Gerrish, Esq. and Mr. John Coffin, a committee to select a suitable preacher for the settlers, and empowered them to assess such a tax as would meet this expense: but the name of the preacher is not recollected. Provision was first made for amending the highways, and five shillings allowed for a day's work; an order passed that the interval should not be mowed until the 10th of July; and this year the proprietors erected on the plantation a log-building for a town-house, and other publick uses.

March 4, 1737. Proprietors met at Newbury, and appointed a committee to expose to public sale the lands of those who were delinquent in paying their proportion of the expense incurred in bringing forward the settlement; granted an award of £5 to John Weed, for his former service as collector; and being desirous of settling a minister upon the plantation, authorized their

committee to employ Mr. Phineas Stevens, a candidate, to preach on trial for settlement.

May 25. At Contoocook the proprietors raised £210 for preaching the present year; also chose all necessary officers; and as the number of settlers had considerably increased, they passed an order that suitable accommodations should be made in the town-house for holding meetings on the sabbath.

May 10, 1738. Meeting at Contoocook.—The proprietors chose their officers; raised £100 for preaching the ensuing season, and Mr. Stevens was again employed as their religious teacher.

The *ferry* across Merrimack river, to Canterbury was first established, and Mr. Stephen Gerrish obligated himself to keep it the term of one year for the rate of ferriage. There being no civil officer among the settlers, the proprietors by their committee, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts Bay for the appointment of a constable to keep the peace.

September 6. The proprietors finding that another division of their plantation was necessary, appointed Benjamin Rolfe, Esq., John Coffin, Edward Emery, Ensign Joseph Gerrish and Thomas Thorla, a committee to lay out the *Second Division* of lots, containing each 80 acres. The committee employed Mr. John Brown as surveyor, performed the service, and made a return of their doings, Dec. 20, with the following streets in said division laid out four rods wide, viz. Fish-street, High-street, Cross-street, Water-street, Long-street, Battle-street, Pleasant-street, and the street now called West-highway, with several other roads. The expense of this survey amounted

to £100, 10s., and was allowed by the proprietors. Mr. Moses Smith was appointed to draw the lots for the proprietors; and an order was passed that each proprietor should pay his proportion of the expense of the laying out the 2d division at the drawing, or not have his lot recorded. An assessment also of £100, was made to enable Joseph Gerrish, Esq., Lieut. Joseph Coffin and Jacob Flanders to build a meeting house upon the plantation; said house to be built of logs, 40 feet long, and "as wide as Rumford (now Concord) meeting house, only two feet higher." The land of delinquent proprietors was ordered to be set up for sale.

Section 5.

May 16, 1739. Meeting held at the town-house in Contoocook. Officers of the proprietary chosen. Mr. Phineas Stevens again employed as preacher for the settlers. £300 old tenor raised to defray contingent expenses. The log meeting house completed and occupied; and the land of delinquent proprietors sold, July 18.

But here we must turn from the routine of business so successfully pursued by the proprietors in advancing the settlement of their plantation, to a subject very interesting and distressing to their settlers. This feeble colony, after the experience of great deprivations, submitting to many hardships in planting their habitations in the wilderness; and while flushed with the hope, that soon their toils would be amply rewarded with the accommodations of life, were harrassed with fear, and called to make defence of themselves and families against the merciless hands of a savage foe.—

In consequence of the frequent wars between France and England, the Indian tribes in North-America, under the influence of the French, made frequent depredations upon the property, and took captive, or killed, some of the N. E. colonists in the new settlements, even in times of peace. This was the evil threatened the first settlers of Contoocook by the Canada Indians. To flee before their enemies with their *all*, they could not ; and to make open defence, they had not power. And where could they look but to the proprietors under God for that protection, which, at this juncture, they so much needed ? Nor did they look in vain ; for

Dec. 6. The proprietors in session at Newbury unanimously agreed forthwith to build a fort 100 feet square, 10 feet high, of timber and other materials, for the defence of their settlers. This fort to be built on the school-lot, near the meeting-house, on King-street ; which was completed in the course of the winter, and for more than twenty years proved a commodious garrison for all the inhabitants. Being furnished with muskets and ammunition, they were able to protect themselves, while they improved their farms.

May 16, 1740. The proprietors met at Contoocook, and having elected the annual officers, a committee was appointed, consisting of Joseph Gerrish, Esq., George Jackman, John Brown, John Coffin and Edward Emery, to consult with Mr. Stevens respecting conditions of his settling in the work of the gospel ministry upon the plantation, and to report at the next meeting. Raised £150, bills of credit of the old tenor, for contingent expenses ; and at the request of the pro-

prietors of Baker's town (easterly part of Salisbury) opened a road from King-street, near the river, to said plantation.

New-Hampshire was about this time to be organized into a province, separate from Massachusetts; the proprietors of Contoocook, therefore, presented a petition to His Majesty the King, by Thomas Huchinson, Esq., praying that their plantation might still be continued to the parent-province. Belknap informs (Hist. 2 vol. p. 173), that 27 other towns made similar application by the same hand, but to no avail; for it was made to appear to the House of Lords by Mr. Thomlinson, agent for this colony, that the interest of the people in the province of New-Hampshire required they be under a government distinct from Massachusetts.

Sept. 25. At a meeting held at Newbury the proprietors heard and received the report of their committee respecting the settlement of a minister, and agreed to proffer Mr. Phineas Stevens the following encouragement for his support:

1. £135 of bills of credit, made equivalent to silver at 29*s.* the ounce, as his salary for the first year, and that to increase £5 a year until it should amount to £175, which should be his stated annual support during his ministry.

2. To give him a settlement of £180; and

3. Should it be found on trial, that his salary proved inadequate to his support, the proprietors engaged to make a reasonable addition.

It was at the same time to be understood that the first settled minister was entitled by grant to one full right of land as his own in fee simple; and the improvement of the parsonage and right

during his ministry.—The last named committee were directed to present these *terms* to Mr. Stevens, as the proprietors' call; and should he accept them, to unite with him in appointing the time of his ordination, and in calling in the aid of an ecclesiastical council. Likewise were authorized to take security of Mr. Stevens, that neither he, nor any other for him, should ever claim, for the minister's right, more than the one hundred and fourth part of said plantation, as his forever; and for the parsonage right, more than the one hundred and fourth part as his during his ministry.*

Mr. Stevens accepted the proposals made;—ordination was appointed; council convened; the security given. A congregational church embodied on the Cambridge platform, and he ordained to the pastoral care of the church and people in Contoocook, October 8, 1740;† and George Jackman was elected the first Deacon in the church.

Section 6.

1741. William Shirley succeeded Gov. Belcher in the government of Massachusetts, and at the same time New-Hampshire, which had been nearly 100 years subject to that government was erected into a distinct province, and Benning Wentworth,

* Such a security was necessary because the town was laid out in one hundred and four rights, and by grant the first minister was entitled to an eighty-fourth part of the plantation.

† An exact account of the expense of ordination was kept by John Brown, Esq. and paid by the proprietors, amounting to £104, N. H. old tenor, or $16 35 our currency—a rare specimen of the simplicity and economy of that age.

Esq. a native of Portsmouth, N. H. then in England, was commissioned Governor by the Crown.

The newly appointed Governor soon returned from abroad and entered his government on the 12th Dec. 1741, under very liberal tokens of respect from the populace. Should any one wish for more information respecting this transaction, he may be gratified by consulting Belknap's Hist. N. H. Vol. II. Chap. 19.

May 20. Meeting at Contoocook. The Proprietors in addition to the choice of Clerk, Assessors and Collector, appointed Surveyors of Ways, Fence-viewers, Pound-keeper and Hogreeves; raised 20*l.* for highways, and 200*l.* for contingent expenses; ordered the sale of lands for delinquency in taxes, and employed Capt. Ebenezer Eastman to clear and plough the ministerial interval-lot the present summer.

1742. Being now under the immediate government of New-Hampshire, the proprietors feeling their need of governmental efficiency, sent in a petition to His Excellency Governor Wentworth, and Council, on the 4th of Feb. and another the latter part of the same month, expressing their desire for his favorable patronage in the adoption of measures suited to the state of the settlers; and as they were exposed to the assaults of the Indians, to provide them with the means of defence.

Sept. 8. The proprietors raised 200*l.* old tenor, to meet the minister's salary, and other expenditures of the year. And to prevent delay in their collection, ordered that each proprietor give his note of hand for his tax to the Collector.

May 18, 1743. Elected the usual annual officers; raised 200*l.* old tenor for the ministry, and contingent expenses; and to expedite the collection, voted that all those who should pay their taxes before the first day of the ensuing November should pay nothing for collection, but those who should delay payment till after that time, should pay one shilling for every pound in addition—an important stimulus to punctuality in other times. 30£ raised for the highways, and a committee appointed to lay it out. It was agreed that the grass upon the undivided meadows should be mowed by the resident proprietors according to the taxes; and the remainder to be equally divided among the other inhabitants.

Sept. 14. At a full meeting of the proprietors an order passed that a 3d Division of land should be laid out—100 acres to each proprietor's share, made equal in quantity and quality.—Richard Jackman, John Fowler, John Coffin, Ens. Joseph Gerrish, John Brown and Thomas Thorla appointed a committee to lay out said Division as soon as may be.

Oct. 31. Deacon George Jackman received of Henry Rolfe, jun. 4 lbs. of powder, 56 lbs. of bullets, and 24 flints; also of Benj. Pettingill 10 lbs. of powder, to be used by the settlers in garrison, for their defence, as occasion should require.

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Section 7.

Oct. 30, 1744. At an adjourned meeting from the 17th inst. the proprietors provided for the ex-

penses of the current year, and raised 126*l.* old tenor, exclusive of the aid of the inhabitants of the plantation, to fortify the dwelling-house of the Rev. Mr. Stevens. This became necessary, because the hostility of the Indians was increasing, and their depredations were more distressing, arising from the late declaration of war by England against France. Though the seat of war was far distant, upon the eastern coast, yet the Indian tribes in Canada, along the river St. Lawrence and upon the Lakes, strongly attached to France, both by interest and religion, sallied forth upon the defenceless frontier settlements: took many captive, and some they barbarously massacred.

The committee appointed to lay out the 3d Division made their report, which was accepted. John Brown, the surveyor, was allowed 30*l.* old tenor, for his service, and each of the committee 12*s.* per day, for their attendance. And to meet the expense of laying out this division of land, the proprietors raised 122*l.* and appointed John Brown to draw the lots for them, on their paying each his proportion of the whole expense.

June 4, 1745. The proprietors met at Contoocook. to transact their annual business, and raised 250*l.* for the support of the ministry, and other expenditures.

On the 17th of June the strongly fortified town of Louisbourg, situated on the S. E. side of Cape Breton, was surrendered by the French Governor Duchambon, to the English, after a siege of 49 days. This famous expedition, which reflected the highest honor upon New-England, was

said and generally believed to have been planned by William Vaughan, of New-Hampshire.* Permission was obtained from the Crown, by Governor Shirley, who solicited the aid of Governor Wentworth, and by the united *land force* principally from Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, under the command of Gen. William Pepperell, and the *naval force* under Admiral Warren, through a series of very remarkable providences, a very signal victory was attained. The expense of this expedition, and paid by the crown of England, was 16,355 pounds sterling. But however signal this victory, the war was not terminated. The Governor of Canada, encouraged and aided the Indians to make depredations upon the colonists; consequently the fields, cattle and mills of the defenceless inhabitants were destroyed, and some of them killed, and others taken captives.

1746. On the 4th of May, Mr. Thomas Cook, and Cæsar, a man of color, were killed at Clayhill, Contoocook, and a Mr. Jones was taken captive and carried to Canada, and there died. This was a very alarming and distressing circumstance to the rest of the settlers. The proprietors called a meeting, (Dec. 30.) and united in a petition to the Executive of the Government of New-Hampshire to provide for the defence of the distressed inhabitants of their plantation.

June 30, 1747. Joseph Coffin was appointed agent in behalf of the proprietors, to present a petition to the Government of the Province for power to collect taxes, who received 9*l.* old tenor, for the service.

* See N. H. Hist. Collections for June, 1823.

Nov. 17th. The annual business of the proprietors was attended to at this meeting held at Contoocook. Raised 250*l.* old tenor, for the ministry and other expenses; and appointed Joseph Gerrish, Esq. Agent to apply to the General Court for power to collect taxes; and voted that the expense of the present meeting be paid by the whole proprietors, amounting to 40*s.* old tenor —nearly $1 50; clearly evincing the intention of the proprietors, that their whole expense should be equally borne.

Nov. 29, 1748. There was a meeting at Contoocook for the choice of officers, and for the assessment of 50*s.* upon each proprietor for incidental charges.

Section 8.

1749. It is not unusual in the settlement of new countries for new sources of fear to be opened, and for real difficulties to arise, where none had been contemplated. There was about this time much excitement occasioned by the heir of Mason in his claim upon a very extensive territory in New-Hampshire. The proprietors of Contoocook had heard of this *claim*, and for which they supposed such arrangements were made, that from it no evils need be apprehended; yet now they had reason to fear that the course pursued would deeply affect their interest. Though their Plantation had been granted them by Massachusetts, they found it lying within the limits of an anterior claim in full force.

To satisfy those who may inquire respecting this claim it may be observed that the grant made to Mason by the Crown of England was that portion of New-Hampshire contained in the following description : Beginning at the sea, and running on the westwardly line of the State 60 miles, and also beginning at the sea and running on the eastwardly line 60 miles, and thence running across the Province from point to point, would give the complement of the grant, allowing for the curve upon the sea-shore ; which, as contended for by succeeding proprietors, required a curve line in the interior, greatly enlarging the claim above a straight line. The heir of Mason was induced to give the refusal of his claim to the government of the Province, for the reasonable consideration of 1000*l.* New-England currency ; but the business was delayed on the part of the government, so that before they were ready to conclude the contract, and thus hold out a lure to all those disposed to possess themselves of the unimproved lands, he sold the whole of his *claim*, in fifteen shares, to twelve persons, for fifteen hundred pounds, current money, Jan. 30, 1746.—(*Belknap's Account.*)

The persons to whom this transfer of the Royal Grant was made, were termed *Lords Proprietors.* They, anticipating that popular displeasure, which would recoil on them for possessing themselves of the power of disposing of all the lands within the limits of their purchase, on their own terms, endeavoured to sooth the public excitement, by generously and prudently *quit-claiming* a number of the towns already granted and set-

tled. But other settlements and grants made by Massachusetts westwardly of Merrimack river, and all the non-resident lands, were held subject to their exactions.

This state of things induced the proprietors of Contoocook, Feb. 1, 1749. to appoint a committee composed of Capt. Moses Gerrish, Joseph Coffin, Capt. Joseph Gerrish, and John Brown, who was afterwards added, to treat with the Lords Proprietors, and if possible to come to some agreement with them respecting their plantation, favorable to the settlement. There was nothing immediately done except some encouragement given. The business thus remained in suspense, for about four years, (1753) when the Lords Proprietors were disposed, very honourably, to lodge in the Register's Office a *quit-claim deed*, to the proprietors of several townships on the westwardly side of Merrimack river, granted by Massachusetts, which secured to the proprietors of Contoocook the title sought, without any further expense. The before-mentioned committee were also authorized to petition the Government of the Province to incorporate their plantation into a town ; the petition was presented, but not granted.

About this time peace was established with the northern tribes of Indians, but it afforded very little restraint upon their depredating spirit.

May 25. The proprietors having elected the customary officers, on passing the vote to raise 250*l.* old tenor, for the support of the ministry, Mr. Samuel Fowler entered his dissent against the vote.

Some damage had accrued to the proprietors in consequence of unseasonably turning cattle upon

the intervals, therefore a committee of seven were appointed to close and open said intervals at proper times.

A tax of 40*l.* old tenor was assessed upon those proprietors living on the plantation, in addition to what they paid in equality with other proprietors and inhabitants.

Nov. 30. Meeting at Newbury; chose a large committee to adjust the outstanding debts of the proprietors; to make a particular settlement with Rev. Mr. Stevens, and see how much is his due, as a fulfilment of the terms of his settlement, and report at the next meeting.

May 24, 1750. Met at Contoocook, and having attended to the annual business, heard the report of proprietors' committee on their account with Rev. Mr. Stevens, viz. "That by reason of the depreciation of the bills of credit, in which Mr. S.'s salary had been paid during his continuance with them, he had a just claim on them for an indemnity: accordingly they voted to make him the honorable remuneration of 300*l.* N. H. old tenor." In doing this the proprietors manifested their regard for justice, and expressed the feelings of a people, faithful to their pastor, whom they respected and loved for his work's sake. But to this procedure Mr. Samuel Fowler entered his solemn protest in writing, which was duly recorded by the clerk. Mr. F. was induced to do this, not from personal dislike to the minister, nor to embarrass the proceedings of the proprietors, but for conscience's sake. He was of the denomination of Friends; and while he uniformly professed a readiness to use his utmost ability

for the advancement of the settlement, and punctually to pay his proportion of all other taxes, he could not with a clear conscience help support the public worship of God in this way. For this year the proprietors abated his tax to the ministry, and though taxed as usual for the five following years, yet each tax was remitted, and it does not appear from record that he ever paid any thing for the support of the ministry afterward.

Nov. 6. Again the proprietors applied to the General Court for corporate powers, but did not succeed.

Section 9.

May 22, 1751. The proprietors met and chose their annual officers ; ordered a way to be opened to the upper interval ; directed such a tax to be levied as would meet their engagement to Mr. Stevens ; also for highways and to pay collectors. And as some proprietors had done but little toward advancing the settlement, 10*s.* old tenor was ordered to be assessed upon the right of every such proprietor.

May 20, 1752. In addition to the annual business, the proprietors at this meeting voted to raise 200*l.* old tenor, to build a second fort immediately, 110 feet square ; the same to be erected on Samuel Gerrish's lot, and Jacob Flanders, Richard Jackman and Stephen Gerrish were empowered to execute the order. Likewise to raise 100*l.* to fortify Rev. Mr. Stevens' house by the same committee.

The call for this defence was the returning hostility of the Indians of the St. Francis tribe, called the *Arosaguntacook tribe.*

Preparations were making, under the direction of the government of the province, for settling Haverhill and Newbury, in Coos. This tribe, jealous of an encroachment upon their hunting ground, remonstrated, and threatened a retaliation. The business, for the present was intermitted, yet the Indians scoured the woods, and spread themselves among the settlers. Two of them, named *Sabatis* and *Plausawa* spent some time at Canterbury, and were considered very friendly; but suddenly disappeared, and carried with them two negro men belonging to Messrs. Miles & Lindsey. One of these negroes effected his escape, the other was carried to Crown Point, and sold to a French officer. Belknap has noticed the event. Others about this time were taken captive in other places; among whom was John Stark, then hunting near Baker's River, afterwards distinguished in the revolution.

May 30, 1753. The bills of credit of the N. H. old tenor were so depreciated that it was found difficult to fulfil contracts equitably; hence the proprietors raised for incidental charges, 8*l.* (lawful) they say equal to 60*l.* old tenor; $26,67, instead of $45,10, the original value: and ordered the assessors to make good their contract with Rev. Mr. Stevens.

All fears excited by *Mason's Claim*, as it respects Contoocook, were put to rest; though in respect of other parts of the province there was not a final adjustment till after the Revolutionary war.

It is well remembered by several, that in June *Sabatis* and *Plausawa*, the Indians, who the preceding year carried away the two negroes from Canterbury were killed near *Indian-bridge*, so called, in Contoocook,* by Bowen and Morril. This was done in a time of peace, and therefore the perpetrators were apprehended and imprisoned at Portsmouth, but the night before the day set for their trial, the prison was forced and they liberated. Some attempt was made to bring the rioters to justice, as well as to restore the prisoners, but to no avail ; and finally the whole resulted in the public mind as deeds of merit.

May 19, 1754. Proprietors met at Contoocook ; made choice of annual officers, and agreed to secure to Rev. Mr. Stevens £175, equal to silver at the rate of 29*s*. per ounce, the original contract. Six men attended this meeting, from Newbury, and were compensated for their attendance, by £12 old tenor each.

The £300 formerly raised for building a second fort, &c. not having been applied, and from the apparent disposition of the enemy not being needed, was ordered to be equally divided among the proprietors. But notwithstanding this year was marked by the very interesting and alarming circumstances of the captivity of Mr. Meloon's family, and the murder of Mrs. Call, &c., to be noticed in the *Narratives of Captivities.*

* Belknap from misinformation says "killed in Canterbury."

Section 10.

1755. At the commencement of this year the Church and people of Contoocook, as well as all the proprietors experienced a very interesting and solemn providence in the sudden death of their reverend and beloved Pastor, Mr. Stevens, who died Jan. 19, 1755, in the 16th year of his ministry.

We have not the means of ascertaining particularly the success of his labors for want of church records; but that he was very dear to the people of his charge, and his services satisfactory, are evidenced by their united attachment to his interest amid the trying scenes and sufferings, to which both he and they were called. And perhaps it were not necessary, if it were possible, for the proprietary to give stronger proof of their confidence, affectionate regard, and of their estimation of his worth, than was done by their uniform intention to do him justice; to procure his safety, and to administer to his comfort.

The army under the command of Gen. Braddock was defeated by the French and Indians at Fort du Quesne, on the Ohio, in the month of July. The General and a number of his brave men were killed; and the retreat of the residue was conducted by Col. George Washington.

Feb. 11. A new agency was appointed to the General Court for incorporate powers; for this there was a special call, as their taxes and the difficulty of collecting them increased.

June 12. At this meeting, beside choosing officers, several committees were appointed ; one to settle with the administratrix of the Rev. Mr. S.'s estate ; another to provide a preacher for the season, and Mr. Varney was employed ; a 3d, to take care of the parsonage lands ; and a 4th, to procure 20 lbs. of powder, and lead and flints sufficient for the necessary use and protection of the settlers. Raised £400 for current expenses, and 90£ 17s. old tenor, to meet the expense of Rev. Mr. S.'s funeral.

Feb. 19, 1756. Mr. Varney was employed to preach the ensuing season.

June 1, 1756. The proprietors met at Contoocook, and it seems from the record that this was the last meeting of the proprietors before the plantation was incorporated into a town.

The most of the business of the proprietors at their meetings particularly related to the settlers, and not to their own department ; and as the settlers had so much increased in numbers, the proprietors felt it to be very desirable to be relieved from any further concern in the government of the inhabitants. They had frequently and importunately applied to the General Court for the grant of incorporate powers to the plantation, but without avail. Loth to wave a subject so pressing, they once more appointed an agency, composed of Joseph Coffin, John Moody, and Capt. Stephen Gerrish, to set forth to the Court the urgency of their request, that they might leave the inhabitants of their plantation in a capacity to enjoy and improve town privileges, and to bring their own business to a speedy conclusion. It was their last

appeal, and they were successful in it, though the act of incorporation did not pass till nearly three years afterward.

The proprietors of Contoocook having steadily pursued the object of their association, wisely calculating and ably executing their plans ;—and uniformly showing their intentions to provide for the *spiritual* as well as *temporal* interest of those for whom they acted. They closed their present meeting by an order on their treasurer for 10*l.* old tenor, to be paid to each of six gentlemen from Newbury for their attendance.

Note. The remaining part of the proceedings of the proprietors will be noted in the Register of the town of Boscawen, as occasion may offer.

The following sections exhibit the Chronological History of the town of Boscawen from the time of its incorporation in the year 1760, *to the year* 1820.

Section 11.

1760. While the proprietors' petition for incorporating their plantation was before the government of the Province of N. H., the reduction and demolition of Louisbourg, so important to New-England, took place. This event gave great celebrity to the character of Admiral Boscawen and Gen. Amherst, and furnished the name *Boscawen* to the plantation, grateful to the feelings of those

whose past experience of sufferings, and cruelty were so closely associated with the Indian name, *Contoocook.*

The first act of incorporation, for reasons to us unknown, extended only to the term of two years from April 22, 1760; and is here transcribed:

PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

George the Second, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come, GREETING.

Whereas our loyal subjects, inhabitants of a tract of land within our Province of New-Hampshire, known by the name of Contoocook, have humbly petitioned and requested that they may be erected and incorporated into a township, and enfranchised with the powers and privileges which other towns within our said Province by law have and enjoy; and it appearing to us to be conducive to the general good of our said province, as well as to the said inhabitants in particular, by maintaining order and encouraging the culture of lands, that the same should be done.

Know ye, therefore, that of our special Grace's certain knowledge, and for the encouraging the good order and purposes aforesaid, by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq., our Governor and commander in chief, and of our council for said Province of New-Hampshire, have erected, and ordained, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do will and ordain that the inhabitants of the tract of land aforesaid, or that shall inhabit, or improve thereon, the same being limited and bounded as follows: Beginning at the southerly side of Contoocook river's mouth, where the same falls into Merrimack river, running thence on a course west, seventeen degrees south, seven miles and one hundred rods, measured from a forked white pine near the mouth of Contoocook river, to a pitch pine and heap of stones;—and from said pitch pine and heap of stones running north seventeen degrees west seven miles to a forked beech marked; and thence on a course east seventeen degrees north to Merrimack river to a heap of stones; thence by the river as the same runs to the mouth of Contoocook river again where it began: Shall have, and by these presents are declared, ordained to be a town corporate, and are hereby erected and incorporated into a body politic and corporate, to have a continuance two years only by the name of *Boscawen*, with all the powers, authorities, privileges, immunities

and franchises which any other town in said Province by law holds and enjoys; always reserving to us, our heirs, and successors, all white pine trees that are, or shall be found growing, and being on said land fit for the use of our Royal Navy, reserving to us, our heirs and successors the power and right of dividing said town when it shall appear necessary and convenient, for the benefit of the inhabitants thereof;—*Provided nevertheless*, and it is hereby declared, that this our Charter and Grant is not intended, nor shall in any manner be construed to extend to or effect the private property of the soil within the limits aforesaid; and as the several towns within our said Province of New-Hampshire are by the laws thereof enabled and authorized to assemble, and by a majority of voters present to choose all such officers and transact such affairs as by the said laws are declared.

We do by these presents nominate and appoint Col. Joseph Coffin, Esq. to call the first meeting of said inhabitants, to be held within the said town at any time within sixty days from the date hereof, by giving legal notice of the time and design of holding such meeting;—after which the annual meeting of said town for the choice of such officers, and management of the affairs aforesaid shall be held within the same on the first Tuesday of March annually.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness, Benning Wentworth, Esq. our Governor and commander in chief of our said Province of New-Hampshire, this twenty-second day of April, in the thirty-third year of our reign, and in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and sixty.

BENNING WENTWORTH.

By His Excellency's command,
with advice of council,

THEODORE ATKINSON, *Secretary*.

PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE, *Sept.* 23, 1760, Recorded in the Book of Charters, page 221.

THEODORE ATKINSON, *Secretary*.

On Wednesday, June 18, 1760, conformably to the order contained in the foregoing act of incorporation, to Col. Joseph Coffin directed, the *first* meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boscawen was convoked at the meeting-house in said town. Col. Coffin was

chosen Moderator, and George Jackman, jun. Clerk for the year, who was re-chosen for the following thirty-five years successively.*

The town being thus organized, provision was made for erecting a town pound.

July 10. Being destitute of a settled minister, the town raised £1200 old tenor;—£800 upon the proprietors' rights, and £400 upon the polls and estate of the inhabitants, for preaching and other expenses of the year. Also appointed a committee to provide a preacher, and Mr. Robie Morrill was employed. The pulpit had been supplied the two preceding seasons by Mr. Stephen Scales. The town found it necessary to call in the arrearages of the income of the parsonage and school lands.

George Jackman, jun. was appointed the first justice of the peace in the town of Boscawen, by his Majesty's authority, King George II.

This was a year of great plenty, but was followed by two years of great drought and scarcity.

Section 12.

March 3, 1761. The inhabitants of the town were desirous of re-settling the gospel ministry among them. The duty of selecting the minis-

* Lest the Register of the town proceedings, and important events should be interrupted and obscured by naming the officers chosen at the annual meetings—such as moderator, Town Clerk, Selectmen, Representatives, &c.—they are here omitted, and are to be found in a compact List in the 3d Part.

ter now devolved on them, though they felt inadequate to his support without assistance from the proprietary. At their annual meeting, therefore, Capt. Stephen Gerrish, and Dea. George Jackman were chosen a committee to employ a preacher with a view to his settlement; and Mr. Robie Morrill, who for some time had preached to good acceptance, was employed on probation.

The town made provision for the support of a school two months the present year.

Sept. 9. A meeting of the proprietors was called by Ezra Carter, Esq. one of his Majesty's justices of the peace, and attended in Boscawen; not having had a formal meeting for nearly four years, as appears from the silence of their records. Capt. Stephen Gerrish was chosen Moderator—Deacon George Jackman, proprietors' Clerk—to succeed Col. Joseph Coffin, who had served the proprietors in that office with great ability, punctuality and faithfulness for more than 28 years. Other officers were chosen, and a committee composed of John Flanders, Moses Call and Richard Flood to call future meetings of the proprietors on application of one sixteenth part of the whole proprietary. Said meetings to be publicly notified, according to law, at Newbury and at Boscawen. Provision was made for settling up all accounts open with former collectors and committees; and for repairing their meeting-house in Boscawen. And finding the inhabitants disposed to settle Mr. Morrill in the ministry, the proprietors voted £300 old tenor toward defraying the expense of his ordination and support; and gave such encouragement for further aid, that the town proceeded to invite, and, on

his acceptance of their invitation, Mr. Morrill was ordained pastor of the church in Boscawen Dec. 29, 1761.

1762. At subsequent meetings, April 7, and June 2, 1762, the proprietors procured a right of land of Maj. Samuel Gerrish, at the expense of £1000 New-Hampshire money, and conferred the same upon the Rev. Mr. Morrill, and his heirs forever :—likewise, in unison with the town, voted him an annual salary of £700 of the same currency ;—one third to be assessed upon the polls of stock of the inhabitants, and the remaining two thirds to be assessed upon the lands of the proprietors : said salary to begin at the time of ordination, Dec. 29th. The use of the parsonage, a matter of course. Thus they evidenced their characteristic regard for the gospel ministry, by so generously aiding in the settlement of a second minister in town ; but Mr. Samuel Fowler was excused from paying his proportion of this beneficence, at his own request.

At their meeting June 2, the proprietors agreed to lay out the 4th division of their land in 45 acre lots ; and appointed Capt. Stephen Gerrish, Maj. Samuel Gerrish, John Webster, Samuel Moody, and John Brown, Esq. their committee—and Mr. Brown to be the surveyor.

The war being now over, the fort, which had been occupied by all the inhabitants for more than twenty-two years, was no longer needed as a garrison, and the proprietors gave liberty to all who had erected framed buildings therein, to remove them to their several farms which they might now

cultivate unmolested,—without the dreadful apprehension of meeting savage cruelty.

Section 13.

Jan. 5, 1763. A meeting of the proprietors was called by their committee and adjourned to the 1st of June, when the 4th division was reported as laid out by their committee; and the proprietors agreed that the lots should be drawn both in Boscawen and Newbury to accommodate the resident and nonresident proprietors. The expence of this survey was 207*l.* old tenor to John Brown, Esq. surveyor; 3*l.* 10*s.* per day to each of the committee; and 3*l.* per day to each of the chainmen.

The proprietors in favor to Rev. Mr. Morrill, permitted him to choose the 45 acre lot belonging to his right; and he chose lot No. 3, on Coldbrook. Likewise gave to Mr. Morrill the improvement of the school and meeting-house lots for the term of four years.

Provision was made for settling with the estate of the former minister, Mr. Stevens, and all other accounts open with the proprietors;—and concluded their meeting by confirming sundry votes, which they had past *informally* in the years 1758, '59 and '60, while their petition for incorporation was pending.

The town of Boscawen did not hold their annual meeting this year in March, because their first charter, which was to continue only for two

years had run out, and a new one, or confirmation of the old one, had not yet been given. But through the agency of Mr. John Webster, employed by the town, a renewal of their town-charter was received in the month of Oct. 1763; and here follows:

PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Whereas our late royal Grandfather King George the Second, of glorious memory, did of his special Grace, and upon the petition of the inhabitants of a tract of land in our said Province, known by the name of Boscawen, and for the maintaining good order, and encouraging the culture of the land thereby, his letters patent or charter under the seal of our said Province dated the twenty-second day of April in the thirty-third year of his reign, and in the year of our Lord 1760,—did erect and incorporate into a body corporate and politic, by the name of Bo-cawen, the inhabitants of the said tract of land, or those that shall thereon inhabit said Province, being butted and bounded as in the said patent, or charter expressed, and was to continue 'till the expiration of two years and no longer, which time being now elapsed, and the inhabitants having again petitioned to have the said charter privileges renewed, and it appearing to us necessary to answer the good proposed, as well as to enable the inhabitants aforesaid to assess, and collect their rates and taxes.

Know ye, that we, being willing to promote the good end proposed, have of our further grace and favour, by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq. our Governor, and Commander in Chief, and of our Council for said Province, revived and regranted, and by these presents do revive and regrant unto the said inhabitants and their successors on the said tract of land, all the powers, authorities, privileges, immunities and franchises in the said charter mentioned, as they enjoyed the same when that charter was in force, and to have continuance till we shall approve or disallow the same, and signify much our approbation or disallowance; and about any dispute that may arise about the authority in calling a meeting of the inhabitants, &c. the selectmen or those that were appointed to that office, and served therein for the last time, or the town clerk, are hereby authorized in the usual form and method to notify, and call a meeting of the inhabitants for the choice of town officers and other affairs of the town.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness, Benning Wentworth, Esq. our Governor and Commander in Chief, this seventh day of October, in the third year of our reign, A. D. 1763.

BENNING WENTWORTH

By his Excellency's command,
with the advice of Council,

THEODORE ATKINSON, *Secretary.*

PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE, *Oct. the seventh*, 1763. Recorded in the book of Charters, No. 1, page 260.

Nov. 1, 1763. Agreeably to the provisions of the foregoing renewal of the town charter, George Jackman, Esq. Town Clerk, called a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boscawen for the choice of town officers;—no other business of importance was attended to.

Jan. 9th, 1764. The town awarded Mr. John Webster £82 old tenor for his time and expenses in obtaining a second permanent act of incorporation.

March 6th. At the annual meeting, after electing town officers for the year, several committees were appointed, viz.

To settle accounts with former selectmen; to lay out high ways which may be necessary; to take care of the school lands; to settle the line between the Parsonage and Mrs. Varney's interval lots; to open and shut the interval, spring and fall; and a committee of four to proportion the fence round the upper interval to the several proprietors.

There was no provision made for a school the present year; but the town voted to make good the salary of Rev. Mr. Morrill, the value of which had depreciated; against this vote Capt. Stephen

Gerrish entered his dissent. The indemnity allowed Mr. Morrill, by the town, for the two last years was £200 old tenor, at the rate £6 for a dollar for the 1st year, and £7 per dollar for the 2d year .And this year, George Jackman, jun. Esq. was appointed Clerk of the proprietors, in place of Dea. G. Jackman.

Section 14.

1765. The *stamp-act* passed by the British Parliament furnished matter of grievance to the American Colonies. About this time, the Province Road was laid out by royal authority, John Wentworth, Governor, through the Province of New-Hampshire, from Portsmouth to No. 4, or Charlestown. Also a bridge was built over Contoocook river, near Capt. John Chandler's, by John Flanders and Capt. Henry Lovejoy. Said bridge constructed with king-posts and long braces.

1766. The Rev. Mr. Morrill had been settled but a few years ; but from the depreciation of the value of his salary. and the acts of the town in making him an indemnity ; difficulties arose which threatened his removal. Some of the people had already withdrawn from his support, and united with the Episcopalian church : the town, therefore, at a legal meeting, after consulting upon the state of things, appointed a committee of five to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Morrill, and ascertain, on what conditions he would take a dismission.

The Rev. Mr. Morrill was disposed to make a statement of the terms for giving up his contract, at an adjourned meeting, which the town readily accepted; and also voted to be at the expense of entertaining the mutual council to be called, to dissolve the pastoral relation: accordingly, the church, having consented to the procedure, the Rev. Mr. Morrill was regularly dismissed on the 9th day of December, 1766; but continued in town a very useful, respectable and exemplary citizen till the day of his death; which was Sept. 23, 1813, at the age of 77 years.

March 3, 1767. Provision was made at the annual meeting for three months schooling the present year. The selectmen were directed to employ a "regular preacher," and Mr. Nathaniel Merrill was employed.

July 25. The log meeting-house had become greatly impaired; the town, therefore, took into consideration the building a new house, and agreed that one should be built near Ephraim Woodbury's; and that Dea. Morrill, Sinkler Bean and Capt. Archelaus Moore be a committee to fix on the spot; who accordingly reported, *Sept.* 8, the place on which it was afterwards built. Mr. Merrill, being well received as a preacher, was employed two months on probation for settlement.

The proprietors held a meeting in Boscawen June 3d, and it seems to have been the opinion of the inhabitants of the town that they would assume the expense of building the contemplated meeting-house; but when consulted, it was found that though willing to grant the land fixed on for

the building, they were unwilling to erect the house. A committee was appointed by the proprietors to aid the town in recovering the non-resident taxes.

Sept. 6, 1768. After much had been said and done respecting a meeting-house, the town chose a committee of five, Messrs. Thomas Fox, Benjamin Eastman, Peter Kimball, Joseph Atkinson, and George Jackman, Esq. to put up a frame at the town's expense; who performed, immediately, the business of their appointment. Having thus disposed of the meeting-house, another object deeply affecting the interests of the town claimed attention—the re-settlement of a minister. The labors of Mr. N. Merrill proved so satisfactory to the church and people, that the town was induced to offer him the following terms of settlement, viz. eighty acres of land; an annual salary of £42 lawful money, during his ministry; twenty cords of wood annually, and the use of the parsonage. These terms Mr. Merrill was disposed to accept; the town, therefore, agreed that the ordination should take place on the third Wednesday of the following October; appointed a committee to provide for the council, and voted £7 lawful money to defray the expense of ordination. And Mr. Merrill was accordingly ordained on the day appointed.

Thus we have seen the inhabitants of Boscawen though delivered from solicitude respecting occurrences abroad, in the two last years, closely occupied by their own very interesting concerns —the dismission of one minister, the re-settle-

ment of another and preparations made for the erection of a decent house for public worship.

At a meeting of proprietors, Oct. 6, 60*l.* lawful money was voted to defray the expenses of the proprietary. And here it may be observed, that *lawful money* came into general use in reckoning in place of the Massachusetts and New-Hampshire old tenor.

Section 15.

July 25, 1769. A town meeting was held at the new meeting-house frame to the end of providing for the completion of the building. The town raised 250*l.* old tenor to be added to what might arise from the sale of the pew-ground; and a vote passed that this sum should be paid in work at 50*s.* per day—about 42 cents lawful money. The time assigned for the sale of the pews, was the 1st of August following; and they were accordingly sold.

1770. The 5th of March was a memorable day, on account of the bloody scene opened in Boston, between several English soldiers and Americans. The dispute arose from the jealousy excited in the breasts of our countrymen by certain arbitrary acts of the mother country; but ended in the wanton butchery of several young men. It bears the descriptive name *massacre.*

March 6. The town employed Mr. Robie Morrill to keep a school four months; and compensated him by the use of the school-right, and both the house and interval lots a limited time.

It became necessary to open the province road through this town to No. 4, Charlestown. The proprietors, therefore, Oct. 23, raised $250 toward defraying the expense, and the town united in aiding the business.

June 11, 1771. To fulfil the contract made with Rev. Nathl. Merrill at his settlement, the town procured of Capt. Henry Gerrish, eighty acres of land for 100 dollars.

May 5, 1772. A bridge was built over Blackwater river by the town; and a road opened, at the expense of the proprietors, to the upper interval.

August 30, 1772. The first grand juror called for, to attend his Majesty's superior court at Amherst, and Capt. Henry Gerrish was elected and served; and received from the town 10*s*. lawful money as compensation for each term.

For several years the measures adopted by the mother country in relation to the American colonies were deemed by them an abridgment of their rights, and their feelings were fast preparing to make open resistance to the unjust exactions. "Although Parliament had repealed the odious "*Stamp-Act*, yet, in a few months, new duties "were imposed upon paper, glass, tea, &c., for the "purpose of raising a revenue to the crown; but "finding that discontent existed among the colo-"nists, the duties were all removed, except that on "tea. And this was under such management as to "exempt the Importer from all duty, and throw the "whole weight of an enormous and perpetual bur-"den upon loyal subjects, without their consent."

It was not however the burden, but the right of laying it, which called for resistance. It was viewed intolerable ; therefore, in December,while several ships lying in Boston harbor, laden with tea, they were boarded by a number of armed men, under the disguise of Mohawk Indians ; who soon discharged their whole cargo into the sea. Deeds of the same complexion were done in other American ports; and most of the patriotic colonists voluntarily relinquished the use of this article for several years. These acts had their influence in preparing the way for those more efficacious, toward the security of equal rights, and the blessings of freedom from intolerable bondage.

1774. The church and town of Boscawen are again deprived of the stated gospel ministry. The Rev. Mr. Merrill, who was settled in 1768, was removed about the first of April the present year. Respecting his removal, and what led to the event, no correct information can be had from any written record ; as the records of the town furnish none,and the church record was then misplaced,or lost,and has never to this day been found. To supply this blank in our history, the memories of several now living retain the circumstances of that event; and from this source the following brief account is given.

From some cause, Mr. Merrill was led to join himself to the Grafton Presbytery ; and by his influence the church was induced, in part, to change the congregational for the presbyterian form of church government. This new connexion led Mr. M. often from his flock, to supply

other vacant churches in the Presbytery, which was an occasion of discontent among his own charge. The discontent was increased by some supposed, if not real *aberrations* observed in his conduct, and proved a fatal bar in the way of his usefulness. Mr. M., well aware of this, applied to the Presbytery for a removal; and he was removed, without the intervention of either the church or town.

In reference to the alteration, which had taken place in the form of church government, there seems to have been a general excitement; for in a subsequent meeting of the town, Sept. 6, a committee of nine was appointed "*to confer with the church in Boscawen about the government and discipline thereof.*"

July 15. By an order from the General Assembly of the Province of New-Hampshire, the town met to choose a delegate to sit in convention at Exeter on the 21st inst. for the choice of members of the first Provincial Congress; and Capt. Henry Gerrish was elected. The specific object of the first Congress is thus expressed. "To consider "what measures are best to be taken for the es- "tablishing the rights and liberties, and for the "restoration of the union and harmony between "the mother-country and the colonies."

The harmony between the countries was interrupted, and the rights and liberties of the colonists infringed by successive acts of the British Cabinet; in laying taxes; imposing duties; altering the charter of Massachusetts, and setting up a new government over the Province; empowering the Governor to send criminals to England for trial;

having already taken possession of the town of Boston by an armed force; removed the Custom-house officers from the town, and shut up its port. These were acts affecting the common interest of the several colonies, and required their united wisdom to devise a speedy remedy, and prevent, if possible, the horrors of war. Delegates were therefore elected in the then 13 colonies, and met in Congress, the 5th of September, at Philadelphia.

Nov. 1. The town of Boscawen appointed a committee to employ immediately "*a gospel preacher of the congregational order.*"

Section 16.

1775. The annals of 1775 present us with 3,000,000 of people born free, in general alarm, preparing for war; rushing to the field of battle, and there witnessing the costly sacrifice of blood and treasure, for the security of their freedom.

Jan. 17. Capt. Henry Gerrish was again chosen delegate to meet in convention at Exeter the 25th inst., to elect members for the 2d Congress.

One barrel of gun-powder, 1cwt. of lead, and 100 flints, were ordered to be procured for the use of the town.

Also voted, to adhere strictly to the advice of the Continental Congress, and appointed nine men to act as a *Committee of Safety.*

March 7. Mr. *Samuel Ela*, who had been supplying, was again engaged to preach the ensuing

season. May 10, the town consented that a proportion of preaching should be enjoyed in the west part of the town.

On the alarm being given at Lexington, numbers from this town volunteered, as well as from all parts of New-England; and several joined the troops at Cambridge,* three of whom volunteered in the expedition to Quebec.

1776. Congress finding all attempts for a reconciliation with the parent-country vain; in the name of the American people, whom they represented, declared on the 4th of July the thirteen United States to be Free and Independent. And this declaration gave a systematic energy to the war.

March 5. This town compensated sundry persons, who volunteered their services on the alarm, the preceding year; chose a large committee of safety, agreeably to a recommendation from Congress; provided for town schools, and gave the people liberty to resolve themselves into school districts. Mr. Judson preached in town several months.

March 28, 1777. By an order from the General Court, the town used means for obtaining enlistments for the public service, and offered a bounty of 50 dollars to those who would enlist for three years. Also appointed a committee (May 26) to fix the price of certain articles of living; it being necessary from the depreciation of the paper currency. And such was the patriotism of

* The number of those who served in the several Campaigns, in 1775–76, will be given in the 3d part, with the proceedings of the town for their indemnity.

the people of the town, that they voted, in public meeting, not to employ Peter Green, Esq., as an Attorney, or Jacob Green as Deputy Sheriff, because of their unfriendly feelings towards the grand cause of our country. Messrs. Judson and Easterbrook were employed to preach.

Jan. 20, 1778. The town was very desirous that Mr. Easterbrook would settle with them in the ministry. He did preach several months, but did not consent to settle.

Provisions were made by the town, under the authority of the State, to supply the families of those employed in the continental service.

March 3. That part of the town, west of Beaver-Dam, were permitted to enjoy their proportion of preaching, according to their tax.

April 21. George Jackman, Esq., was chosen delegate, to meet in convention at Concord, to adopt a more permanent system of state government.

July 7, 1779. The selectmen and Capt. Peter Kimball were authorized to provide 4 men for the continental service, and 5 men for the defence of Rhode-Island.

Sept. 8. The plan of state government was laid before the town, but was not accepted. At this meeting, George Jackman, Esq., was chosen delegate to meet in convention, to regulate the prices of sundry articles of living.

Dec. 6. Col. Henry Gerrish was chosen, to represent the towns of Boscawen and Salisbury, in the General Court, and to aid in the choice of members of Congress.

March 7, 1780. At this time, the paper currency had greatly depreciated, so that a day's work, upon the highway, was reckoned at £6, or 20 dollars. And to indemnify the selectmen for their services, whose uniform compensation, annually, had been two dollars each, the town engaged, at their annual meeting, to give to each of them $100, paper money, and *two bushels of peas.*

June 22. A committee was chosen to provide men for the continental service, and authorized to compensate them. £1000 were raised at the annual meeting for preaching, and a committee chosen to lay it out ; but the record does not specify the person employed.

Section 17.

1781. The town of Boscawen had been destitute of a settled minister for the seven last years, though several candidates had been employed, and several attempts made for a settlement. It now seemed the united desire of the town, to secure such a blessing ; therefore, at their annual meeting, *March* 6, the selectmen were directed to assess such a tax upon the inhabitants, as would supply them with a preacher eight months ; and requested their committee to employ Mr. Samuel Wood four sabbaths, whose late labors among them had been generally acceptable. And at this meeting, Lt. Enoch Gerrish was chosen agent to provide the beef and men required of the town for the public service the present year.

July 31. A special meeting of the town was called, at the request of the church, to ascertain the feelings of the people in respect of the labors of Mr. Wood; and also, to his taking the pastoral charge of the church, in the work of the gospel ministry among them. And the town voted to give him an invitation to settle with them in the ministry, accompanied with the following encouragement for his support, viz. £50 a year, for the two first years, equal to silver at 6s. 8d. per ounce, or in current money, of equal value, as his annual salary. After the two first years, to increase £5 a year, to £70, which should be his stated salary, as long as he remained their minister. And also £90 settlement, equal to silver at 6s. 8d. per ounce, should he settle with them, with the use of the parsonage.

The committee, appointed to present the invitation and proposals to Mr. Wood, were authorized to receive his answer, and, if affirmative, to unite with him in fixing the time of his ordination, and to make all necessary provision for the same.—Mr. Wood was disposed to accept the terms of settlement, and accordingly united in the calling a council, and was ordained Oct. 17, 1781.

Sept. 10. The depreciation of the town taxes was found to be so great, that the selectmen were directed to lay a new tax in silver money, and reduce the old tax to that value.

Dec. 4. The towns of Salisbury and Boscawen made a trial, but could not agree, to send a representative to the General Court. The land of delinquent proprietors was sold for taxes, at public auction, July 11, 1781.

1782. After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, on the 9th October, there seemed far less anxiety in the American people, in respect of the conclusion of the war. And as the enemy was in the southern states, the calls for men and means, for the support of the war upon the people of New-England, were less frequent and urgent. This town did nothing more the present year, than (March 5) to re-appoint Lt. Enoch Gerrish their agent, to provide the town's proportion of men, beef, &c., for the army.

May. The meeting house in town had been built several years; but, owing to other public expenses, it still remained unfinished. The town now took up the subject, and ordered the gallery-pews to be sold, and the avails of the sale to be laid out in finishing the house.

On the 2d day of October, the proprietors held a meeting, not having been in session, before, for about 10 years. At this meeting, they agreed, that all their lands, remaining common and undivided, should be sold at public auction; and they were accordingly sold, excepting those appropriated to particular uses. Also, the proprietors made a donation to the town of 400 feet of glass, for the meeting house, and appointed Col. Henry Gerrish to procure the same. And at the adjournment of the meeting, Nov. 12, they specifically reserved *two acres* of the common land on Clay-Hill, as a brick-yard for the town proprietors, and concluded their meeting by the appointment of George Jackman, Esq., Henry Gerrish, Esq., and Mr. Cutting Noyes, a committee to call meetings in future.

1783. After the experience of the privations and distresses of an eight years' warfare with a nation powerful in arms, a cessation of hostilities is announced, and, Feb. 4, the freedom, sovereignty and independence of the United States acknowledged to the universal joy of the American people; being invested by Divine Providence, with the richest blessings, to be inherited by unborn generations.

March 4. Notwithstanding the past difficulties and discouragements experienced by the inhabitants of this town, they were generally prosperous in their improvements; especially those in the westerly part of the town. Such was the increase of their numbers and property, that it became desirable, for their convenience, to have a house for public worship erected; the town took some measures to this effect, but a meeting house was not built till several years afterward.

A plan of state government was sent out to the people for adoption; but a majority of the town objected to the offices of *Governor* and *Privy-Council*, and appointed Rev. Samuel Wood, Henry Gerrish, Esq., and Samuel Fowler, delegates to the convention, to offer the town's objections.

Aug. 18. The 8th article of the *Confederation* between the states was approved of by the town, as recommended by the General Court.

Sept. 29. The Upper Bridge, over Blackwater river, was ordered by the town to be built, but was not completed till the following year.

March 2, 1784. The government of the state of New-Hampshire being settled, the town gave their suffrages for a President and two Senators.

Dec. 9. Nonresident lands sold at auction, by Cutting Noyes, Collector.

Dec. 30. An agent chosen to defend the town in an action brought by Abraham T. Sweat, for his bounty as a soldier.

April 25, 1785. Measures adopted, to preserve the public lands from injury.

Sept. 3. The town defended the selectmen in an action brought by John Fowler, for his minister tax.

March 7, 1786. There being no present call for war stores, Mr. Robie Morrill was directed, by the town, to dispose of the ammunition on hand, and to reserve the avails for the procurement of a future stock, when needed.

Nov. 24. From the great scarcity of money in circulation, the government of New-Hampshire called for the public opinion respecting an *emission* of paper; and this town voted their assent, that so much paper should be issued as would redeem the state securities, and under such management, as to be called in within the term of 7 years.

In this and the following year, 1787, the general tranquility of New-England was greatly interrupted by what has been termed *Shay's Rebellion;* or a formidable opposition to the state and national governments. It began, and was virulent in Massachusetts, but the state of New-Hampshire was not exempted from its portion of the evil. For a while, the rich blessings for which our country has fought and bled seemed jeopardized; but, by wise and energetic measures, the restless spirits of the multitude were quelled;

and this alarming evil opened the way for the adoption of our present excellent form of national government.

Section 18.

March 31, 1787. The town met to choose a representative to the General Court; but, as shewing their unwillingness to be represented, after much debate, they voted not to elect a moderator.

April 28. A road was ordered to be opened from Blackwater bridge to Warner line.

June 4. Delegates were appointed to meet in convention, at Warner, on the expediency of petitioning the General Court, for the removal of the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas from Amherst to some town in the northwesterly part of Hillsborough county. A petition was presented and eventually granted, and Hopkinton was made a shire town.

Jan. 14, 1788. Capt. Joseph Gerrish was chosen delegate to the convention, for the adoption of the Federal Constitution; but, through the influence of a few, another meeting was called, *May* 23, and a majority of those present voted to reject said constitution, and elected Samuel Fowler, Esq. delegate, in room of Capt. Gerrish. The procedure, however, was viewed incorrect by the Convention, and therefore, the gentleman first elected took his seat.

Dec. 15. Members of the 1st Congress under the Federal Constitution, and electors of Presi-

dent and Vice-President, ballotted for in a general ticket. And on counting the electoral votes, at the 1st meeting of Congress, *March* 4, 1789, it was found that Gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON was elected President of the United States, by the unanimous voice of his country, and the Hon. John Adams, Vice-President.

The town was not represented in the General Court the present year.

April 14. A part of the school lands were disposed of, in a long lease, at auction, for the sums following :—house lot, $124 ; interval lot, $210 ; and the eighty acre lot, $453 ; these sums, making $787, to be kept on interest for the sole use of the schools in town. The 100, and 45 acre lots were not at this time disposed of.

March 3, 1790. The nonresident lands sold by Edmund Chadwick, Collector.

The town called for the money due for pews in the gallery of the meeting house, for immediate application. And (*Dec.* 10) voted that ground for four pews be sold, and built on the floor of the meeting house now occupied by seats, which was accordingly done.

March 1, 1791. Much business was expected to fall to the department of the selectmen the present year ; the town, therefore, elected *five* to serve in that office.

April 6. The inhabitants, in the westerly part of the town, having petitioned for the convenience of a meeting house—at this meeting a committee of eleven was chosen. to consider and report to the town on said petition, which was immediately done ; and was, for substance, the following.—

1. That the town build a meeting house. 2. That all meetings on the sabbath, and for public business shall be there attended, according to the proportion of taxes paid by the inhabitants, as soon as the house may be occupied. And 3d, that a committee of three, viz. James Flanders, Esq., Ebenezer Webster, Esq., and Capt. Luke Wilder, fix the spot for the erection of the house; and the frame to be raised and the pews sold within one year from this date. This report was accepted by the town.

Sept. 19. Accordingly a committee of direction was appointed. The town fixed on the place for the house. Mr. Samuel Jackman contracted to procure a frame for 94 dollars; the workmanship was so satisfactory to the town, that a consideration was made to Mr. J. of $16 68 cents.

Oct. 17. The pews were sold at public auction this day.

1792. As yet, very little had been done for the promotion of learning. But at the commencement of this year, (Feb. 7,) a respectable society was formed for the procurement of a Social Library. And, as a further encouragement to make the education of youth an object of importance, the Rev. Mr. Wood, (March 6,) generously proffered the town the whole avails of the parsonage lands, for one year, being 44 dollars; and, for this beneficence, received a cordial vote of thanks from the town.

March 27. It was thought expedient, by the town, to dispose of the parsonage lands, and put the money on interest. The Rev. Mr. Wood, be-

ing solicited, gave his acquittal, and the whole parsonage right was sold at auction, in separate lots or parcels; and bonds given for the payment, by the several purchasers, amounting to 918 dollars.

Aug. 27. The town voted acceptance of the Constitution of the State, as revised and amended by the Convention in June last.

March 5, 1793. The annual meeting was held, for the first time, at the west meeting house.

March 4, 1794. The town compensated Geo. Jackman, Esq., for his past services as Town Clerk.

A large committee was chosen to unite with the selectmen in dividing the town into school districts, and for building school houses, which was accordingly done.

The Rev. Mr. Wood having relinquished his claim upon the parsonage lands, that they might be sold—at this meeting, the town voted that he have the annual interest on the parsonage lands, during his future continuance with them in the ministry.

A standard of weights and measures was ordered to be procured for the town, which was done by the selectmen.

The spring of 1794 was very forward; but it is well remembered, that on the night of May 17th, was the *Great Frost* in New-England, which blasted the very promising hope of most fruits, and shortened the crops of corn and grain; yet this deadly frost almost entirely delivered New-England from the destructive ravages of the *Canker-Worm.*

In consequence of depredations made upon our commerce by England, at War with France, war measures were resorted to by Congress; and the State of New-Hampshire was required to furnish a proportion of her militia, for our country's defence. This town encouraged enlistments to go into the service, any time within twelve months, and to serve three months, after arriving at the place of rendezvous; to be compensated with eight dollars per month; one dollar bounty, and, if called into actual service, to have one good blanket.

Several gentlemen united together, under certain regulations, at their own expense, to bring water, in pipes, to their several houses on King-street.

Section 17.

March 3, 1795. At the annual meeting, some alterations and regulations were made in and for the several school districts. Likewise a town pound was ordered to be built, near Capt. Peter Kimball's.

This year, a treaty, called *Jay's Treaty*, was negociated, by Chief Justice Jay, between the United States and England; which settled all difficulties, prevented war, and proved highly advantageous to our common country.

1796. The last meeting of the proprietors of Boscawen was called June 15, and adjourned to Aug. 30. Col. Henry Gerrish was then appointed agent for the proprietors, to petition the General Court of Massachusetts for a township of land, in

compensation for Contoocook, formerly granted them; but which, on settlement of the line of the state, fell into New-Hampshire; and therefore, by a plausible construction, the grant of Massachusetts had never been verified.

Col. Gerrish undertook the agency at his own expense, on the proffered condition of his securing to himself and heirs one half of all the lands, which might be regranted: but however sanguine the expectations of the proprietors in the attempt, they were never realized.

At this time, our country was subjected to the ordeal of internal convulsions. The conflicting opinions, interests and passions of men, threatened the prostration of every thing valuable, though procured by blood and treasure. In reverting to the causes of such a state of things, we readily see, that our army, disbanded after an eight years' war, carried from the camp, and lodged in all the channels of society, the seeds of vice, profligacy, and insubordination; also, the insurrection headed by Shays; the revolutionary spirit of France, actuating Americans: the neutral ground taken by our executive in relation to the powers at war; the open opposition made to Jay's treaty; now about to change the administration, and in full prospect of a war with France for redress of our commercial injuries; were things combined, and resolved the American people into two distinct political parties, decided friends or decided oppesers of the administration of our national government.

From north to south, in every state, county, town and village, the impulse was felt; and the

people of this town were not merely spectators of the desolating scene.

Though the inhabitants of this town had lived in great harmony from its first settlement, the united promoters of good order, morals and religion, and had walked hand in hand, supporting the cause of their country through the war; yet now, instead of enjoying harmoniously the precious laurels of victory, in the rage of party, those deeds were perpetrated by some, which threatened the extermination of every secular, social, civil, or moral good. So that the name of Boscawen, at a distance, was associated with contention, destruction of property, conflagration and daring wickedness.

Dec. 19. At this meeting several motions were ineffectually made concerning a *bounty tax*, assessed the preceding year, 1795, which had produced much excitement in the collection, inasmuch, as there was no tax called for. What induced the selectmen to lay this tax, was the circumstance, that, in 1794, no precept came for a county tax seasonably, therefore, none was laid; but, before the year expired, an extent came for the tax, which the selectmen were obliged to provide for, on their own credit. The following year, a majority of the same selectmen were in office, and as in the other instance no call was made for laying a tax, yet they thought it prudent to be in readiness, if one should be called for; therefore, they added the probable sum to the state tax, so that it might be legally collected. But there being no county tax that year, several refused to pay the tax; and to end the perplexing business in the most pacific

manner, the selectmen paid the whole sum assessed, for the county tax, with additional costs, out of their own property to the town; which sum, amounting to nearly sixty dollars, has never been reimbursed to this day.

There was also at this meeting a large committee appointed, including the present selectmen, to look over the accounts of former selectmen; it being confidently asserted, and industriously circulated, and believed by many, that large sums of money were in their hands not accounted for. This committee did not succeed in adjusting the business; but a second, soon after chosen, did, and certified to the town, that the said selectmen produced receipts and orders not entered upon their book, fully meeting the town's demand to their satisfaction.

1797. About this time, a disaffection arose against the regular support of the gospel ministry. Sundry persons refused to pay, and one protested against paying the minister tax.

In consequence of damages done to the public highways, in taking up bridges, &c.; also, damages done to the meeting houses—the town appointed a committee of four, July 19, and confirmed the same, August 28, to prosecute such persons who had, or should, in the course of the year, be found thus trespassing upon either the public highways, or public buildings.

There had been, for some time, a very unhappy difference of opinion among those living in Water-street school-district, respecting the place for setting their school house; it was, therefore, thought advisable by the town to appoint a com-

mittee out of town, to settle the controversy, and place the school house; accordingly, Abiel Foster and Timothy Walker, Esquires, and Col. Philip Greeley, were chosen by the town for this committee.

Section 20.

1798. At this time, our commerce was unwarrantably molested by French cruisers, and the attempt made by our ministers and envoys to negociate proved fruitless. Congress established a provincial army for retaliation and defence. President Adams, with consent of the Senate, appointed Gen. George Washington Lt. General and Commander of all the armies of the United States; and reprisals were made by our navy.—But an overture was made by the French government the following year, and a negotiation was opened, and the war terminated.

On the night of the 22d of February, unhappily, for the reputation of this town, the eastwardly meeting house was totally consumed by fire. The mean or instrument of this conflagration has never, as yet, been ascertained.

March 6. The former committee, to prevent trespasses upon the highways and meeting houses, re-chosen.

March 26. The town of Boscawen met, to adopt measures for rebuilding a meeting house, in place of the one burnt, and voted to erect a frame, at the town's expense, on such spot as should be agreed upon. To fix the spot, was referred to

Joshua Bayley, Esq., Capt. Benjamin Darling, and Philip Greeley, Esq., who reported to the town, April 16th, the westerly end of Woodbury plain, so called, as the most convenient and equitable place for the erection of the meeting house; but their report was not accepted. Three other places were named and acted upon, but the people could not unite in either. It was then proposed, that six men have liberty to build a meeting house, at their own cost, on the plain near the *Pine-tree;* but the town would not consent. Several other trials were made at the adjournment to fix the place, but to no effect; and the meeting dissolved.

In this time of general excitement, neither public nor private property was considered safe.—Some individuals, who were the open and active supporters of order in society, sustained very serious damages in, and loss of property at different times; such as apple trees peeled and cut down; utensils secreted and injured; horses shot; lumber destroyed, &c. But to conclude this unpleasant article of our history, on the night of the 16th of August, the school house, on Water-street, was destroyed by fire; an indemnity, therefore, was secured, by a civil process.

March 5, 1799. Much time was taken up, and many expedients tried at the annual meeting; and also, on the 8th of April, if possible, to fix the place for a meeting house, but to no avail. A majority wished for the house, but could not agree on any one nameable spot to build it, and therefore the subject was suffered to rest. The town, however, did agree, that half of the meetings, for pub-

lic worship, should be held in some place on King-street,and the other half at the meeting house, until a new house should be built.

In this state of things, the present meeting house, on King-street, was built by proprietors, in the course of the season, which precluded the necessity of erecting another, and was afterward, (Sept. 16,) offered by the proprietors for a town meeting house, on the town's paying for the frame; but for this, a vote could not be obtained, though one half of the public meetings of the town have been uniformly held therein ever since.

The difficulty on Water-street was amicably settled, by suffering the district to remain divided, as formerly, in two parts, a school house to be erected in each, one by the town, the other by the district, each to be placed by the voice of the district; one school kept for the accommodation of both alternately at each house, and all have the privilege of sending to either.

Again the Rev. Mr. Wood made a donation of fifty four dollars for the use of the public school. For this liberality, under present gloomy circumstances, the town conferred on him an unanimous vote of thanks.

Feb. 22, 1800. In memory of Gen. George Washington, deceased, agreeably to a previous arrangement, the inhabitants of Boscawen assembled, walked in procession to the meeting house on King-street, both ladies and gentlemen wearing tokens of mourning,and the pulpit shrouded; the Rev. Mr. Wood delivered a discourse, from Judges

iii. 9, appropriate to the very interesting solemnity.

March 4. One act passed at the annual meeting was, to give liberty to all, or to as many as should choose, living westwardly of the ground on which the old meeting house stood, to pay their minister tax to the west meeting house, and have the proportion of preaching there accordingly. But this act was viewed, by some, as a departure from the uniform conduct of the town, in providing preaching for those living in the west; for, taking into view the number of those, who would improve the liberty given, it was assigning to the west meeting more than an equitable proportion of preaching, and taking from the east meeting a part of their just right. And when it was considered, that the proprietors of the east meeting house had, at their own cost, built a house, exonerating the town from that expense, and which house the town were ready to occupy for their convenience: now for these proprietors to lose by what they had done, or to have taken from them, by the authority of the town, a part of their privilege of preaching, was deemed, by fair construction, oppressive and unjust. And as in this act, religious characters, as well as others, were implicated, it, therefore, became every professor of religion to inquire, while exercising his legal right in voting in public town meeting, *Am not I violating the law of Christ?*

It appears from the record, that the Rev. Mr. Wood did not accede to the town's procedure; and doubtless, from the foregoing view of the subject, he could not consistently comply. This act

proved embarrassing, and from it difficulties were pressed into the church of no common magnitude, and of long continuance.

1801. The small pox broke out, and began to spread among the inhabitants ; the town, therefore, erected a hospital, and gave liberty to inoculate. Also, appointed a committee, to prosecute any persons, who might be found designedly spreading the disease.

Dec. 21. The number refusing to support the ministry was found to increase, and measures were taken for the removal of the minister. As the first step toward this event, a committee of 5 was authorized to wait on Rev. Mr. Wood, to see if he would unite in calling a council, to dismiss him from his charge. The act was informal, but prepared the way for holding a special meeting, Feb. 1, 1802, when it was voted to be the desire of the town, that the Rev. Mr. Wood would give up his contract with the town ; and a new committee was appointed to present this vote, and consult with him on the terms of his taking a dismission.

Mr. Wood, finding the desire of the town thus expressed, signified in writing his readiness to dissolve the contract on equitable terms, which might be agreed on by the parties, and which did not require the intervention of an ecclesiastical council. And on April 20, he did submit to the town by their committee, for substance, the following proposals, viz.

That he be allowed to enjoy all the privileges of a minister, such as exemption from taxation on

either his poll or estate, &c., during his relation to the church.

That the town give him annually one half of the interest of the parsonage, payable on the first day of May, so long as his connexion with the church shall continue.

That during his relation to the church, all, who may contribute to his support, shall not be taxed, by the town, for the support of the ministry elsewhere : and that the town pay up all arrearages of his salary and parsonage to the present time.

Should the town accept these proposals by a regular vote—a fair settlement be made with the selectmen, as herein stated, mutually signed and recorded on the town book, the civil contract between him and the town shall be dissolved to all intents and purposes.

The town, forthwith, voted acceptance of the Rev. Mr. Wood's proposals, 67 to 64 ; and of course, a full and final settlement made between him and the selectmen, May 7, 1802, mutually signed by

SAMUEL WOOD, and
JOSEPH COUCH,
NATHANIEL GREEN,
SAMUEL MUZZY, } *Selectmen.*

dissolved the contract.

In looking upon this, and some other proceedings of the town of Boscawen, we see the enlistment of all those conflicting passions and interests, whose destructive and demoralizing influence had for years been increasing, now at its *zenith*, and spending its concentrated force. We fondly hope, therefore, that, from this era, our histor

will disclose measures tending to peace and order; inviting harmony of feeling, and retrieving our lost reputation, although the years of many generations may not extinguish the remembrance of the past.

The Rev. Mr. Wood remained pastor of the church, and soon a society was formed in connexion therewith, for his support; which was, a few years afterwards, incorporated.

Section 21.

March 1, 1803. The remaining half of the interest, on parsonage bonds, was granted to the west meeting house, to be laid out under the direction of the selectmen.

In this year, the Fourth New-Hampshire Turnpike was opened through this town, terminating at the toll-bridge, built over Merrimack river, by an incorporated company, near Col. Isaac Chandler's, the preceding year.

Inoculation for the small pox continuing at the hospital, a committee was appointed by the town, to see that the publick should not be endangered by the sick.

About this time a number were apprehended for counterfeiting bank notes, and putting them into circulation.

1804. By an act of the General Court, the annual town meeting to be held the second Tuesday in March, throughout the state.

Aug. 27. The town permitted four pews to be sold, on the floor of the west meeting house, and the money to be laid out upon the house.

The pulpit, at this house, was pretty constantly supplied, by different preachers ; but the expense was defrayed mostly by private subscriptions. It was not now to be expected that the town would re-settle a minister; therefore, numbers were desirous of adopting some systematic method of providing for the preaching of the gospel. Early in the season, a society was formed, called *The Westerly Religious Society*, in Boscawen, consisting of about 60 or 70 members ; and was incorporated in 1810. The prominent features of the Constitution of the Society are,

"Any person may become a member, by signing the constitution of the society.

No person is bound for more than the term of one year : but, at the expiration of the year, by signifying his desire to the clerk, and paying up his proportion of all money assessed while he was a member, may withdraw.

When two thirds of the society are agreed, they may settle a minister ; and may dismiss him, when two thirds are agreed in the measure. And a minister so settled may, at any time, take his dismission, without violating his contract of settlement."

Soon after the establishment of this Religious Society, there was a special attention to religion and a small number became hopefully pious.— This event induced the society to express their desire to have the stated preaching of the gospel, by

extending an invitation and proposals to the Rev. *Ebenezer Price*, to settle with them in the ministry, who had, for several months previous, been supplying. Their proposals were conditionally accepted. A small church was gathered, and Mr. Price installed pastor of the second Congregational church and society in Boscawen, Sept. 26, 1804. And this year, a second bridge was built over Merrimack river, to Canterbury, by an incorporated company, and a road opened by the town to meet it, from King-street.

Sept. 10, 1805. Concord and Boscawen united, by their committees, in building a bridge over Contoocook river, by Capt. John Chandler's, at the expense of the two towns.

March 10, 1807. A revision of the State Constitution called for; and but two voted in favor of its revision.

Dea. Enoch Gerrish, Benjamin Little and Caleb Knight, Esqs., committee for the west meeting house, were authorized to sell two pews more on the floor of said house, and to give further time of ninety days to former purchasers to make payment, or their privilege should be deemed forfeited.

The selectmen were directed to request Timothy Dix, Esq., to lay out the fine assessed by the Court, of $175, upon the old travelled road, above Pearson's mills, the money being already in the hands of said Dix; but, should he decline, they were authorized to make the requisite repairs upon said old road. Mr. Dix did not comply with the request, of course, the town sustained the entire loss of that sum.

In June, a law passed the Legislature of New-Hampshire, for the better regulation of schools, specifying the requisite qualifications of instructors, and providing an inspecting committee.

March 14, 1809. At the opening of the annual meeting, a very unhappy disturbance took place in time of prayer; but was soon quelled by the moderator; and both the principal and abettors were disposed, on cool reflection, to make those concessions, which the town accepted as satisfactory, and thus prevented a civil prosecution.

The first committee for inspecting schools chosen, in compliance with the law of the State.

April 12. A committee appointed, to see what alterations in school districts, and repairs in school houses were needed; and at a meeting, (Sept. 1.) the town ordered several new school houses to be built, at the town's expense.

1810. On Friday, the 19th of January, was experienced the coldest day within the memory of the most aged. Many buildings were unroofed, overturned or destroyed by the wind; many people were frozen, and not a few lives lost by the cold. Much damage done to orchards, generally throughout New-England.

March 13. The school committee made their first report, which met the acceptance of the town. Such a report has been given, annually, ever since; in which, has been exhibited the state of the several schools; by whom kept; length of the terms; number of scholars; general order and progress of the scholars, &c. A practice, which has been found to be grateful to parents—an excitement to

our youth, and very promotive of education, and moral improvement.

Aug. 27. Stirrup-iron bridge ordered to be rebuilt; and in the execution of which, Mr. Daniel Shepherd well nigh lost his life.

March 12, 1811. The state and county officers voted for by a joint ballot, which has since been the common practice of the town.

Section 22.

1812. Our national affairs, at this time, wore a very unpromising aspect, both at home and abroad. So much so, that President Madison intimated to Congress, in his Message at the opening of the session, his expectation of hostilities with England before the session should close. The attention, therefore, of the government, was mostly engrossed by war measures; and on the 18th of June following, war was declared.

March 13, 1813. The check-list first used in town meeting, in the choice of state officers, by a law of the state.

And this year, the first tax was laid, by the selectmen, upon the estate of a regular settled minister of the gospel, in town; and this, *three years* before the wisdom of the legislature of the state provided a law for such a tax.

1814. The spotted fever, which in many places had prevailed the two preceding years, now appeared among us, in its most terrific form, and

carried off a number of children, in 6, 8, 10, 12, and 24 hours, after being attacked.

1815. In the month of February, the treaty of Ghent arrived at Washington, which had been signed, the preceding December, by the commissioners mutually ; and was ratified, by the President and Senate, on the 17th. And thus peace was once more restored to our bleeding country, and received, by all classes of people, with demonstrations of joy.

March 14. The town of Boscawen voted, to make the consideration of $5 to each soldier, who served at Portsmouth, and to pay their bills of expense, to and from Portsmouth, provided the state should not.

The law, for the observation of the sanctity of the sabbath, was very openly and grossly violated; and loudly called on a christian community to make an effort, to remove the increasing evil.— This town therefore appointed, at their annual meeting, nine tithingmen. And to give greater encouragement to civil officers faithfully to execute the laws, for the suppression of vice, and the promotion of virtuous habits, moral societies were about this time greatly multiplied in this, and in the adjoining states. Such a society was formed in this town, in April, consisting of 108 members.

Amidst the righteous judgments of God, with which our land was visited, for the transgressions of the people, yet the year 1815 was distinguished, by the outpouring of the holy spirit in a general revival of religion, in this town. The revival began in July, in the east parish, and spread

into the west; became general, and continued till the fore part of November, before any perceivable abatement of the work; and many, of every age, were the happy subjects of renewing grace.

Sept. 20. Two school districts were set off from district No. 3, viz: The branch on Pleasant-street, and the branch on the street from Sweatt's mills southwardly, and a school house was soon built in each.

Section 23.

March 12, 1816. The remaining ground occupied by seats, on the floor of the westerly meeting house, was sold for pews, and the avails ordered to be laid out in repairing the house.

The whole number of votes cast at one balloting, for counsellor, was 346; a larger number than was ever carried, on any other occasion.

Col. Joseph Gerrish and Capt. Samuel Choate, appointed a committee to examine into the state of the schools, parsonage bonds, and other securities, reported, that

The whole of those lands were sold for	$1794 00
Security for the same found, to the amount of	1696 41
Leaving a balance in the hands of the town, of	97 59,

May 20. On the death of Samuel W. Lang, Town Clerk, Hezekiah Fellows was chosen by the town to that office.

Oct. 1. A town meeting called, on a Justice's warrant, to hear the report of their committee, chosen to look into the state of Water-street school district. Their report was, for substance, that Water-street be divided into two separate districts; that a new school house be built by the town in the south, and that the house in the north be repaired; which report the town accepted.

The year 1816, though the last of ten years of uncommon seasons and dearths, yet it is to be distinguished from any preceding year. The whole face of nature appeared shrouded in gloom. The lamps of heaven kept their orbits, but their light was cheerless. The bosom of the earth, in a mid-summer's day, was covered with a wintry mantle; and man, and beast, and bird, sickened at the prospect. Autumn returns, alas! not to fill the arm with the generous sheaf, but the eye with the tear of disappointment! On the 6th of June, the day of general election, the snow fell several inches deep, followed by a cold and frosty night; and, on the two following days, snow fell, and frost continued. Also, July 9th, a deep and deadly frost, which killed or palsied most vegetables. The little corn, which had the appearance of maturity, was destitute of its natural taste or substance; and yet the providence of God was bountiful, in supplying the article of bread from the crops of rye, which were uncommonly good.

1817. After the first of June, a very great change was observable in the atmosphere and vegetable world. The winds were generally from the south west, for more than half a year. The air became warm and natural; vegetation unusu-

ally rapid, and autumn poured forth her blessings in rich abundance.

March, 1818. The town appointed Lt. Daniel Pillsbury, Moses Coffin, and Moses Fellows a committee, to collect the money still due for pews in the west meeting house, and to lay it out upon the house.

Another bridge was, this year, built over Blackwater river, near Jackman's mills.

The decision of the Federal Court of the United States was given in February, in favor of the claims of the Trustees of Dartmouth College.

Two grand jurors and one petit juror were chosen to the Circuit Court of the United States, to sit at Portsmouth, N. H.

March, 1819. The expense of services performed by the selectmen for 1818, and allowed by the town, $125 ; a very great difference between this and the compensation made the selectmen, in 1780. And, at this meeting, a committee of three was chosen, to furnish the town with the most important events and facts relating to the settlement and progressive improvement of the town ; and Rev. Ebenezer Price, Rev. Samuel Wood, and Dea. Enoch Little, were the committee.

In obedience to this appointment, the foregoing register has been attempted in behalf of the committee, and accepted by the town.

Having retraced the period of 88 years, bringing our history down to 1820, there are now before the reader the most prominent events and facts, furnished from written documents and memory, relating to the progress of the settlement of

this town. In these are to be seen the inhabitants of Boscawen, alternately prospered and afflicted; in war and in peace; wading through scenes dreadful in the retrospect, and possessing enjoyments most desirable. And through the whole detail, abundant occasion is afforded, to admire the righteousness and mercy of God.

We therefore conclude this section, and this second part of our work, by observing, that the year 1819 has been distinguished from every other year in the series, in respect to the general regard had to the education and morals of our youth, by placing them under the tuition of well qualified and pious instructors; and especially distinguished, by the most extensive and powerful revival of religion, ever experienced amongst us; and rarely, if ever, experienced in any other part of our land, as we have already more particularly noticed.

Well, then, may the present actors upon the stage *tell your children these things, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.*—Joel i. 3.

THIRD PART.

Miscellaneous Articles.

Names of the Original Proprietors of Boscawen.

Abraham Adams, jr.,
Stephen Jaques,
Joseph Coffin,
Robert Greenough,
Joseph Morse, jr.,
Benjamin Lunt,
John Akers,
Daniel Richards,
Daniel Dole,
John Chandler, Esq.,
Joseph Tappan,
William Ilsley,
John Adams,
John Alden,
Joseph Knight, Esq.,
James Mitchel,
Stephen Moody,
Benjamin Pettingil,
Richard Greenough,
Richard Jackman,
Cornelius Wood,
Joseph Morse, 3d,
Henry Sewall, *Boston*,
John Webster,
Joseph Gerish, Esq.,
Samuel Bagley,
Benj. Smith, *Rowley*,
Robert Adams,
Richard Kelley,
Samuel Gerrish,
John French, jun.,
Joseph Jackman,
Nicholas Cheney,
Joseph Willet,
Jacob Noyes,
John Poor,
Stephen Dole,
Moses Smith,
Cutting Lunt,
Jonathan Plummer,
Thomas Peirce,
Archelaus Woodman,
John Smith,
Isaac Haul,
Edward Emery,
Willabee Feaver,
Jacob Pilsbury,
Stephen Emery,
Amos Stickney,
George Jackman,
Jonathan Sampson,
Richard Pettingil, jr.,
Moses Gerrish,
Joseph Dole,
John Plummer, jr.,
Elizer Peirce,
Daniel Peirce,
Theoder Coker,
Joseph Gerrish, jr.,
Richard Coffin,
James Allen,
William Ripp,
Abraham Titcomb,
John Coffin,
John Waite,
William Moody,
John Moody, jr.,
Moses Knight,
Daniel Coffin,
Daniel Knight,
Moses Coker, [3d,
Edmund Greenleaf,
Daniel Hale,
Henry Kingsbury,
Nathan Wheeler,
Joshua Pilsbury,
Thomas Woodbridge,
Joseph Noyes, 3d,
James Merrill,
James Noyes,
Thomas Webster,
Joshua Hale,
William Atkins,
George Little,
Jonathan Ilsley,
Richard Hall,
Samuel Sweet, jr.,
Tristram Little,
John Noyes, 3d,
John Weed, jr.,
Samuel Little,

91 Proprietors.

Names of the First Settlers.

Stephen Gerish,	George Jackman,	John Fowler,
Jacob Flanders,	Moses Burbank,	William Dagadan,
Ambrose Gould,	Richard Flood,	Daniel Rolf,
Andrew Bohonnon,	Philip Call	Edward Emery,
Josiah Bishop,	Thomas Cook,	John Corser,
Joseph Eastman,	Nathaniel Danforth,	William Peters,
Richard Jackman,	William Danforth,	Nathaniel Rix.
Edward Fitz-Gerald,	Sinkler Bean,	
Joel Manúel,	David Barker,	—27.
Nathaniel Meloon,	John Bowen,	

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Births, recorded, 1348.

Marriages, recorded, 602.

Deaths, of which, but few recorded, until 1808; since, a particular bill of mortality has been kept, and the number in each year, from 1808 to 1820 inclusive, is here presented.

1808, died, of all ages,	16
—09 - - - - - - -	9
1810, died, of all ages,	20
—11 - - - - - - -	17
—12 - - - - - - -	29
—13 - - - - - - -	26
—14 - - - - - - -	23
—15 - - - - - - -	25
—16 - - - - - - -	37
—17 - - - - - - -	34
—18 - - - - - - -	33
—19 - - - - - - -	36
—20 - - - - - - -	32
Total,	337.

Commanding Officers of the 21st Regiment of Militia in New-Hampshire.

This Regiment was formed in 1786, and Henry Gerrish appointed Colonel, but never took the command. Col. Ebenezer Webster, Salisbury, commissioned in 1787, took the command, and was succeeded by

Joshua Bailey, of Hopkinton,	
Philip Greeley, Hopkinton,	
Joseph Gerrish, Boscawen,	
John Gale, Salisbury,	
Col. Isaac Chandler, Boscawen, in	1807.
Benning Smart, Hopkinton,	1813.
Jonathan Weare, Andover,	1815.
Moses Gerrish, Boscawen,	1818.
Jonathan Bean, Salisbury,	
John Greeley, Salisbury, now in command.	

Table,

Shewing some of the Officers chosen each year by the town—some County, State, National, and other officers; also money, annually raised by the town, for school, preaching, and town charges.

Year.	*Moderator and Town Clerk.*	*Selectmen.*	*Representative.*	*Other Officers, &c.*	*Money.*
A.D. 1760. 1st Incorporation.	Joseph Coffin, Esq., George Jackman, jr.	John Fowler, John Webster, Capt. Joseph Eastman.	†	Benjamin Eastman, 1st Collector.	£1200 old ten.
1761.	John Webster, *	John Webster, Enos Bishop, George Jackman, jr., Esq.		Jesse Flanders, first Tithingman. Dea. Geo. Jackman, Doorkeeper.	
1762.	Capt. Joseph Eastman,	George Jackman, Esq., John Flanders, Joseph Hoit.		Thomas Foss, Ensign John Fowler, first Assessors.	
1763. 2d Incorporation.	Ensign John Fowler,	Joseph Hoit, Ephraim Plummer, Thomas Foss.			
1764.	Capt. John Fowler,	George Jackman, Esq., Jesse Flanders, Oliver Fowler.			
1765.	Capt. John Fowler,	George Jackman, Esq., Capt. John Fowler, Jesse Flanders.			
1766.	Capt. Joseph Eastman,	Lieut. Moses Burbank, Moses Call, Ens. Henry Gerrish.			

* The last named Town Clerk is to be considered re-elected, each year, until a new one is named.

† No Representative or Delegate, until 1774; being under the Crown of England.

Year.	*Moderator and Town Clerk.*	*Selectmen.*	*Representative.*	*Other Officers, &c.*	*Money.*
1767.	Jesse Flanders,	Ensign Henry Gerrish, George Jackman, Esq., Jesse Flanders.		Peter Kimball, first Treasurer.	£200 old tenor.
1768.	Capt. John Fowler,	Ensign Henry Gerrish, Peter Kimball, Oliver Fowler.			£7 10s. lawful.
1769.	Moses Morse,	Capt. Henry Gerrish, Moses Morse, George Jackman, Esq.			£250 old tenor.
1770.	Robie Morrill,	Moses Morse, Capt. Henry Gerrish, Ens. Peter Kimball.			£140.
1771.	Moses Morse,	Winthrop Carter, Moses Call, Moses Morse.			$50.
1772.	Capt. Henry Gerrish,	George Jackman, Esq., Dea. Jesse Flanders, Samuel Muzzy.			£80.
1773.	Capt. Henry Gerrish,	Ebenezer Hidden, Samuel Gerrish, George Jackman, Esq.		Capt. Henry Gerrish, first Grand Juror to his Majesty's Sup. Court, at Amherst.	$150.
1774.	Capt. Peter Coffin,	Samuel Muzzy, Ens. Peter Kimball, Dea. Jesse Flanders.	Capt. Henry Gerrish Delegate to the State Convention.	First Congress.	£50.
1775.	Capt. Stephen Webster,	Lieut. Moses Call, Enoch Gerrish, George Jackman, Esq.	Capt. Henry Gerrish, Delegate to the State Convention.	2d Continental Congress. 1st Provincial Congress.	£65.
1776.	Robie Morrill,	George Jackman, Esq., Cutting Noyes, John Eliot.			£62.

Year.	*Moderator and Town Clerk.*	*Selectmen.*	*Representative.*	*Other Officers, &c.*	*Money.*
1777.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	George Jackman, Esq., John Eliot, Cutting Noyes.		County Treasurer and Register first chosen.	£90.
1778.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	George Jackman, Esq., Lieut. Enoch Gerrish, Cutting Noyes.	George Jackman, Esq., Delegate to State Convention.		£110.
1779.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	George Jackman, Esq., Lieut. Enoch Gerrish, Samuel Muzzy.	G. Jackman, Esq., Del to C. Col. H. Gerrish, Representative for Salisbury & Boscawen.		£580 paper.
1780.	Capt. Peter Kimball,	George Jackman, Esq., Capt. Stephen Webster, Cutting Noyes.	Col. H. Gerrish, Representative.		£3400.
1781.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	George Jackman, Esq., Cutting Noyes, Capt. Peter Kimball.			£2000.
1782.	Capt. Peter Coffin,	George Jackman, Esq., Joseph Gerrish, David Corser.			£40 paper, new emission.
1783.	Ebenezer Hidden,	George Jackman, Esq., Isaac Pearson, David Corser.			£70.
1784.	Capt. Peter Kimball,	Lieut. Enoch Gerrish, Capt. Peter Kimball, George Jackman, Esq.		President and two Senators first voted for in N.H., and Meshech Weare chosen President.	£90.
1785.	Ebenezer Hidden,	George Jackman, Esq., Lieut. Enoch Gerrish, Benjamin Sweatt.	George Jackman, Esq., Representative.		£120.
1786.	Samuel Fowler, Esq.,	George Jackman, Esq., Benjamin Sweatt, Lieut. Benjamin Jackman.	George Jackman, Esq.		£140.

Year.	*Moderator and Town Clerk.*	*Selectmen.*	*Representative.*	*Other Officers, &c.*	*Money.*
1787.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Capt. Peter Kimball, Lieut. Benjamin Little.			£130.
1788.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Cutting Noyes, Capt. Peter Kimball.	George Jackman, Esq.	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Delegate to Convention, fo. adoption of the Federal Constitution.	£210.
1789.	Capt. Peter Coffin,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Capt. Peter Kimball, Lieut. Benjamin Little,		Washington, President, Adams, Vice President.	£155.
1790.	Capt. Joseph Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Capt. Peter Kimball, Lieut. Benjamin Little.	Col. Henry Gerrish.		£160.
1791.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, George Jackman, Esq., Samuel Ames, David Corser, Nathaniel Green, Esq. } 5	Capt. Joseph Gerrish.	Nathaniel Green, Esq., Delegate to Convention, to revise State Constitution.	£135.
1792.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish,	Lieut. Benjamin Little, Maj. Enoch Gerrish, Lieut. John Chandler.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.		£100 for school. Also, Rev. Mr. Wood's donation, $54 23
1793.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Lieut. Benjamin Little, George Jackman, Esq.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.	Josiah Bartlett, first Governor of New-Hampshire.	£100 for school.
1794.	Col. Henry Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Lieut. Benjamin Little, George Jackman, Esq.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.	Isaac Chandler, first Grand Juror to the Circuit Court.	£100 S.
1795.	Capt. Joseph Gerrish,	Capt. Joseph Gerrish, Enoch Little, George Jackman, Esq.	Capt. Benjamin Little.		£160 T. and S.

Year.	*Moderator and Town Clerk.*	*Selectmen.*	*Representative.*	*Other Officers, &c.*	*Money.*
1796	Thomas Thorla, Tristram Noyes.	Lieut. Winthrop Carter, Thomas Thorla, Enoch Little.	Benjamin Little, Esq.		£130.
1797.	Thomas Thorla, Tristram Noyes,	Lieut. Winthrop Carter, Thomas Thorla, Daniel Shepherd.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.	John Adams, President.	£190.
1798.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish, George Jackman, Esq.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish, Timothy Dix, jr., Joseph Little.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.		$633.
1799.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish, George Jackman, Esq.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish, Timothy Dix, jr., Benjamin Little, Esq.	Maj. Joseph Gerrish.		$666.
1800.	Thomas Thorla, Samuel Choat,	Lieut. Benjamin Jackman Joseph Couch, Caleb Knight.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.		$850.
1801.	Nathaniel Green, Esq. Samuel Choat,	Lieut. Benjamin Jackman, Joseph Couch, Caleb Knight.	Timothy Dix, jr.	Thomas Jefferson, President.	$1100.
1802.	Nathaniel Green, Esq. Phinehas Bailey.	Joseph Couch, Nathaniel Green, Esq., Samuel Muzzy.	Timothy Dix, jr.		$700.
1803.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish, Joseph Couch.	Nathaniel Green, Esq., Nathan Davis, Lieut. Benjamin Jackman.	Timothy Dix, jr.	Annual Town Meeting, 2d Tuesday in March.	$600.
1804.	Nathaniel Green, Esq. Joseph Couch,	Lieut. Benjamin Jackman, Maj. Isaac Chandler, Lieut. Joseph Little.	Timothy Dix, jr.		$800.
1805.	Col. Joseph Gerrish, Lieut. Caleb Putney.	Lieut. Benjamin Jackman, Lieut. Joseph Little, Maj. Isaac Chandler,	Mr. Caleb Knight.		$900.

Year.	*Moderator and Town Clerk.*	*Selectmen.*	*Representative.*	*Other Officers, &c.*	*Money.*
1806.	Col. Joseph Gerrish, Samuel Choat.	Lieut. Joseph Little, Lieut. Daniel Pilsbury, Joseph H. Morrill.	Benjamin Little, Esq.		$1350.
1807.	Col. Joseph Gerrish, Joel French.	Lieut. Daniel Pilsbury, Lieut. Joseph Little, Capt. Somersby Pearson.	Benjamin Little, Esq.		$1200.
1808.	Col. Joseph Gerrish.	Capt. Somersby Pearson. Ezekiel Morse. Lieut. Stephen Gerrish.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.		$1200.
1809.	Col. Joseph Gerrish.	Lieut. Stephen Gerrish. Joseph H. Morrill. Capt. Peletiah Peasley.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.	James Madison, President. First S. Committee chosen by law.	$1350.
1810.	Col. Joseph Gerrish. Samuel W. Lang.	Lieut. Stephen Gerrish. Lieut. Joseph Little. Thomas Coffin.	Maj. Enoch Gerrish.		$2200.
1811.	Col. Joseph Gerrish.	Lieut. Thomas Coffin. Benjamin Little, Esq. Joel French, Esq.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.		$2700.
1812.	Col. Isaac Chandler.	Ens. Nathan Chandler. Capt. Joseph Ames. Capt. Moses Gerrish.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.		$2400.
1813.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.	Capt. Moses Gerrish. Capt. Joseph Ames. Ens. Nathan Chandler.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.	Check List used by law.	$1800.
1814.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.	Maj. Moses Gerrish. Capt. Joseph Ames. Lieut. Isaac Gerrish.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.		$2100.
1815.	Ezekiel Webster, Esq.	Lieut Isaac Gerrish. Jesse Little. Joseph H. Morrill.	Lieut. Joseph Little.	9 Tithingmen.	$1800.

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N. MANCHESTER,
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